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#### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### US warns of long-term ban

PRESIDENT Carter's ban nn the export of high technology gnods to the Sovict Union could continue indefinitely. Speaking before a special Sc-

nate sub-committee hearing. William Perry, Under-Secretary of Defence, explained that the ban inight remain as the Soviet. Union was stendily increasing its spending on defence technology. Over the last decode its spending had leapt £31 hillion ahead of US nillitary technology funding, he suid.

#### it's an ill wind . . .

IN the ill-wind department, HIM's problems with the System 38 dutabase computer heve blown Wang plenty of good. The company has been inviting people with System 38s on order in seminms in the US to promote the merits of the Wang VS cninputer, and so far has picked up orders worth \$17.4 million with un average unit value of \$145,000.

#### **Dutch** contract

THIRD party maintenance firm. Data Processing Customer Engmeering has been awarded a contract by KLM Royal Dittch Airlines to maintain its (win IBM 300/65 installation at Amstelveen in the Netherlands. The KLM contract is worth £200,000 over four years.

#### Link to Bombay

LA 54 OECWINER IN

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PO Barrier Unit

A SATELLITE link to Bombay was established and the British Prestel system was demonstrated to acclaination of the Computer Society of India's conference to the city earlier this month.

to VM/CMS users

portance of the VM/370 sperat- CICS/VS, and IMS/VS data- VM/SE and £785 for full

VM/PTF costs £63.40 s

May. VM/SP, Systems Product,

is a replacement for both the

basic and the full VM/Systems

(CW. Junijary 24), comprise 1981 raspectively. VM/SP conformed licensed programs. 1981 raspectively. VM/SP conformed printers.

The onnouncements, forecast port for these will be withdrewn spooling facility to local and report for these will be withdrawn

Probably the most important editor with n "powerful" com- ment, Des Lee, chairman of the

Is VM/VCNA, VTAM Com- mand set, enabling users to iBM Computer Users' Assoclo-

anunications Network Applicawrite macros for text editing
tion, which allows users of the
and other applications; and VM
ond the big users organisation

tion, which allows users of the very support to the 3279 colour dis-

support to the 32/3 Colon dis-for System to access SNA-based applications on all systems in an SNA network. Additionally, it

A network. Additionally, it it costs £157.30 a month, com- wishes," he said.

VM/CMS consoles and to use the Interactive facilities offered Data 100-IAL's joint offort

are intended to be used with

little or no modification. Data

There are packages covering

built by Sycor, the organisation

between £500 and £700.

#### UK companies unite to advise government

on international markets.

representing a wide range of UK companies including Ferranti, ICL, GEC Camputers, about the same time.

ing system in IBM's strotegy for

the 1080s the company hos nn-

nounced mojor enhancements

which enable notive mode

VM/CMS users to join the

The onnouncements, forecast

enables terminals attached to an

SNA network to be used as

by CMS. VM/VCNA costs

Also predicted and long de-

local or remote CMS users to be

own host, or to pass through the

hoat processor to access such

sub-systems on a accord hoat.

Thus, a bridge is provided bat-

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£142.60 o month and will be From front paga

Through Facility which enablea but at il likes the name.

available between October this ments, the iAL Gemini pockoges

sired is the VM/PTF Pasa 100 admits to this contradiction,

operating system on the user's and payroll and they can be

Systems Network Architecture

ment policies and of the implications that sidered by the individual companies in interests. future GATT and EEC regulotions may have preparation for the next meeting in March.

on international markets.

The group, provisionally named the Main objectives at present are to prepare for the change in the government a "Atlas leading to the change in the government of "Atlas". United Kingdom Information Technology
Associatish, held its first meeting at ICL on January 28. This was attended by directors year and ts be ready for new GATT provisiona that are due to come in to force at

Recording, Kode, SPL, and Penny and Giles. group was that the Computing Services ported."

VM/SE.

month and will be nyslloble in pleted by an RSCS, Remota

Extension programs and sup- RSCS extends the VM/370

The 400 series hardware is 400 series machines, the 405 and

acquired by the Canadian 8080 processors. The amailer 405

elecommunications firm Nor- can have up to two VDUs and

thern Telecom not long before it took over Data 100 and aet up. one million bytes of floppy diac took over Data 100 and aet up.

Northarn Telecom Systems comas with up to eight VDUs Corp. A faw 400 series systems and can support hard disc drives.

The announcement is com-

Specing Communications Sub-

system. Available in October

and costing £39.50 a month,

Welcoming the announce-

munication with the mainfrome.

3270 emulation being one optio-

445, are based on multiple Intel

A PRESSURE group of British-owned computer industry companies is heing formed to advise the gavernment on future procureand the points raised are to be further constituted and owned by oversens

National Enterprise Bonrd compnnies Nexos and Inmos were both invited to send representatives to the meeting and olthough Inmos director innn Barrnn was unobie to attend he favoured such a venture. He told Computer Weekly, "There is a need for MPs to have a knowledge of information technoto have a knowledge of information technology and any mechanism which helps Computer-CAP, BOC Computer Services, Pactel, Data One reason given for the need for the towords that underatonding abouid be aup-

### IBM gives SNA link Strike called off by NCR engineers

NCR service engineers voted to accept one of the company's two latest pay offers and return to work this week, despite opposition from their union

epresentatives:
The 760 men were due to the fell mon were due to teke strike ection at the beginning of this week (CW, February 21) but in a beliet last week there wee en unexpected 2 to 1 vote for en offer which gives an acrese-tho-board pay increase of 17% beekdeted to Docember 11% 1, 1979, and a 2% pey increase end reduction of the working weak from 40 to 39 hours on

June 1, 1980.
Ten pey offere wate mode by NCR in response to an initial end for o 30% pey incresee

by ASTMS. "I em very disappointed with the scoeptance of this offer," said Jim Moreer, divisional officer for ASTM8, "but there le etili the question of London weighting to be rasolved, and wo era meeting the company on

nal facility. Existing systems aoftware includes Cobol and A DiSPLAY ohned at showing the general public how inte-grated circuits are made and The Sycor side of Northern Telecom Systems Corp is devadialled into applications or sub-systema running under a guest sales ledger, purchase and nominal ledger, stock recording series of diatributed processing how they can be used is to he mounted at the ideal Home systems called the 465 that will Exhibition in London next wack

#### ICs at Ideal Homes

purchased individually at prices amploy the 16-bit intel 8086 by Plessey Semiconductora. microprocessor. The existing

# cache bua ur SBI, 67 or systems to 1785

#### are already used by Data 100 The 465 will extend these customers in the UK for distributad processing and com- ware compatibility.

UK firms in race to buy GA • From front page

also in the factory data collecand anvirbnmental control

Automation is the effort the Talks have been hald with US company is having to put into and other companies in the sorting out the problems at EMf, medical electronios field.

which it acquired late last year. market, process and industrial control. General Automation is EMI medical scanner division. Thorn is currently trying to secunt and anytronmental control joint vanture, but smphasiaes a major contender. One factor likely to hamper staff and customera, is unlikely any Thorn bld for General to be found for several weeks



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creusing problem for fire in studies have shown that:

can be cut by as much a?

according to Graham Bar

the NCC, who will be vot

Using computers to be:

specific jobs is different:

computer-ossisted learned

schools, he points out, ",

the machine-based materia.

an optional extra placete

of existing procedures

up nicthods and guidebas.

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systems con and ought to

The aim of the study st

ing the project.

Training costs can be u

Number 697

million for the NEB-backed

semiconductor company Inmos could be announced today

(Thursday) or tomorrow. And

on announcement on the com-

pany's application for on In-

illicate for its first foctory in

Bristol may be made at the same

If the money is eventually

dustrial Development Cer-

Thursday, March 13, 1980

IMPERTALLY OF JORDAN Price 20p



#### Briefing Second £25 million lined up for Inmos

# support pian

SOFTWARE and systems companies are being invited to apply for financial support for computer projecta from the EEC Cammissian. At present, £9 milllog has been affocated to the schenie. Prajects should be schenie. Prajects should be socially, environmentally or commercially "useful".

Each project shauld involve at least two users or companies and should further EEC objection.

and should further EEC objectives almed at implementing standards, partability and conversion. Support will be in the form of interest-free isans of up is 50% of the cast for the develepment perisd and the first two years of implementation. Loana will be repayable with interest out of profits earned.

#### Receiver at HPAC

A RECRIVER has been called in at Oxford software house HPAC whose Fortrao 77, Coral 66 and BCPL compilers are sold by Computer Automation on its Naked Mini computers (CW, hely 19, 1979). There were plans for a Pascal compiler and finishing toucaes to an RTL/2 compiler will probably have to be made by Computer Automation

#### Dlok's WP buy

GEC's US office equipment company A. B. Dick of Chicago, is reported to be buying the manufacturing rights to a shared-logic word processing ystem manufactured by Hendrix Electronics of Nashua, New Hampshire, Called Magna SL. the system is already marketed

#### Surrey's second

A SECOND Univac 1100/80 sysem, valued at El.B million, has been ordered by Surrey County Council for use in developing departmental services and a arger terminal network.

#### Bid withdrawn

bid far UK communications most striking feature of the naw manufacturer Case, and la SEMS Mitra mini, announced in seeking to renegotiata terms of Paris last waek, as the Milra 525. the takeover. The reason is that As exclusively reported in Comn so much that the \$11 microprocessor. million bid is now worth \$19.25

The chip is also used in the

#### Compelec sold

COMPELEC, which went into The three buses, which went into similarly liquidation last month low, February 28), has been laken over by Beam, part of like a single bus to the user, like a single bus to the user. thore are also centres in Nanchester and Cheitenham,

#### ment, and regional groupings of MPs. There are even suggestions of a minor Cabinet spiit over the funding of the company, and the . from the NEB to do this, but the The rows revolve around the

siting of inmos's first factory. Ministers in the last Lobour government, including ex-Prime

MAJOR development work on IBM-oriented GSI in the UK has received the gu-ahead

software systems is to be carried out on from its French parent to run an M80 under

Magnuson M80s, installed in the UK by Gen- VM/CMS at its Slough computer centre in

érale de Service informatique and CAP-CPP. order to develop software that will ultimately

The IBM-compatible M80s are the first be used by GSI on the Continent to provide

machines to be shipped to Europe by Mag- interactive access to its many IBM-hused

IBM projects

background of political rows called for the IDC application to between the NEB, the governbe rejected because the crun- he has no power to direct transcription porty is not locating in an 'where to go. assisted aren. The ex-Ministers ' say they received a commitment company states that it never gave such a commitment.

industry Secretary Sir Keith Joseph has said that the decision on the actual location of the

systems. Most of these run in batch or remote

by GSI UK Itself.

batch mode at the moment.

GSi in the UK has no in-house

muchines, but the software de-

velopment on the M80 should be

the preinds to the build-up of

services based on IBM or IBM

compatible machines operated

by iBM, VM/CMS is in the

nscendunt again as evidenced by

the SNA enhancements to the

operating system described in

Computer Weekly last month

Surrey, will be used entirely to

develop additions to the firm's

improve range of software pro-

ducts for IBM users, Existing

Improve products are already

heling sold in the US by Altergo

Software Inc, the marketing

nperation just acquired by Insac Products (CW, Morch 6).

orders in the US to date, most nf

which have been for M80 pro-

cessors to directly replace IBM

CPUs. But GSi and CPP have

both ordered complete systems

from Magnuaon Including

Turn to back page

Pegs Six for Programmers Software File

People and Events
Technology Ministry cali

Prime's office bid

ALSO ...

peripherala from plug compatble suppliers like Storage Tech-

Magnuson has wan obout 70

CAP-CPP's M80 at Richmond,

Following a period of coolness

THE long-delayed second £25 granted it will be made ogainst a Minister James Callaghan, have company's factory is a matter Where Inmos does go if the IDC for the Bristol factory is

turned down, is a motter of some conjecture, and it is possible that it could get the money but not the certificate.

The company does not have an official alternative site.

#### CW jobs go on Prestel

COMPUTER WEEKLY this week launchas a job sdvartleing asrvice on Prestel through Its sister company LPC Viewdate.

A trial using edvarticament reproduced free from our pages hee baen run eince Compec last November, and now the page are to be charged for at £75 a

Access is yle IPC Vlawdete' mein Indax on page 456 of straight to today's computer obs on page 459074, Fron thore users are routed to in (o pravious daya) summante or

Presid now hea 2,450 waers of which 1,620 are busines usors in the Lumilon area Comestic users number 414 in

# take over

**S Africans** 

#### subsidiary

60% share of CAP SA, the South African subsidiary of the British softwore house CAP-CPP has been bought by the P-E Consulting Group in Johunnesburg. The group is on independent associate of the P-E Group of Egham, Surrey.

The move gives CAP SA independent control in its South African operations, solving the iong-distance control problems between parent and subsidiary.

CAPSA has also suffered from the high turnover of staff in the competitive South African software market, a problem which: the limited support from the UK rould do little to solve. The relationship with P-E is almost at giving staff stability and job security.

Jim McAulay, managing

director of CPP-European Serviews, who did the groundwork for UAP SA In 1976 and was involved in the deal, commented, "The safe was the best of a untaber of options, Our

Turn to hack page

#### 2903 replacement next week

REPLACEMENT for the highly successful ICL 2903 is set to appear on March 20. Known in the company under various code names such as the 29BB and Mi, the practine is expected to offer the power of the 290-1/50 at the price of a 2903/40. First deliveries are scheduled for June. A field-upgradable model which will supplient the 2903 with first deliveries in January, 1981, may also be included in the initial

Most interesting feature of the new system is likely to be the operating system. ICL is expected to announce an enhancial version of the 2003 Exec, code-named EMOF 30, and to follow it with Super EMOE later this year (CW, December 13, 1979).



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WP launch

PARADYNE has withdrawn its. THE use of three buses in the bid far UK communications most striking feature of the naw £68,000). nology and Control Data, GSI is paying about £7,000 a month for a leosed M80 Model 4 SEMS in the UK la concen-

trating on the Solan line and is the offer made last autumn was puter Weekly the mini uses the unlikely to announce the 525, all in Paradyne shares. Since high speed Motorola, 10800 then the Paradyne share price emitter-coupled logic bit-alice

million and Paradyne thinks this is too much.

The cnip is also used in the Mitra 525 is beliaved to be the Mitra 525 is beliaved to be the first minicomputer built around it; it is also the first bitalice processor from SEMS.

remains, will become the head. . which are attached input-output quarters for the operation, and communication processors, and system bus.

The Mitra 525 features an 8Kword cacha memory and la da-VYDEC is aunching a new verprocessor, incorporating new is new machine will sell for imported with console, 50 about \$250,000 (about \$27,000) and consoling new machine will sell for important four video terminals and a foliciling community to the new machine will sell for important four video terminals and a foliciling community to the commun and a four line communication

\*INSIDE-THIS.WEEK'S CW.....

NORWEGIAN SCENE Figurally of the Norwagien com- Computerview on H-earles puter industry is Norek Dato Letters to the Editor whose Nord range of minis has The industry lobby won many a prestigious European Gilb's Mythodology tricks. Keith Jones looks at the Flexibility of CAFS development of the company and Page Six for Brogtan development of the company and Bostware File ite place in the Norwegian Software File Op Spot

The first Magnuson M90 in Europe being installed lost week at CAP-CPP offices at Richmond, Surray.

The computer industry in India Progress of the IDPM

PALMER IN INDIA

The computer industry in Indis Progress of the IDPM may be email in world terms, but Computermalist in Brum Computermalist in Brum Computermalist in Brum Computermalist in Brum Computermalist in the sub-computer News Computer News Computer

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#### **COMPUTERVIEW**

IBM watchers are in disarray over when the company will announce the first model or models of its H-series or Adironduck which will succeed the 303X line.

The Gartner Group of New York believes the first muchine could appear us early as this month, while Daniel Mandresh of New York brokers Merrill Lynch Plerce Fenner and Smith believes it will be "later rather than sooner", adding that the company has probably not made up its mind whether it will be in the Inst quarter of 1980 or the lirst quarter of 1981.

against an imminent launch: It says that while General

A dual processor machine would imply that IBM ia naxL rewriting the MVS operating system for more effective

Another question still unanswered with any condate of the H-series, iBM has said that it is likely in to version of the 3033 which is aiready available.

announced. Code names identified for various models as the coolani. Include Catalin, Iroquois, Marcy, Sentinel and Baldin, with Iroquois the favourite as the first to appear. A latent power of the 3880 disc controller, which has been evidence points to late 1980 or early 1981 first

H foxes IBM

goes for a May luunch of one model and suggests it will IBM does not at present hove an effective counter to the prices are by no means immine. be a dual processor 3033 built in new technology. But the Amdahl 470V/8, so u machine offering about 40% more same publication offers what appears to be evidence power than the 3033 would be an appropriate addition.

against an imminent islanch. It says that while deficient translations are apparently defined by different teams in various locations, as was with £450,000 for a comparable 3031. The 18 a.f. bigger sales targets for 1980 than they had in 1979, Data
Praceasing Division targets are substantially unaltered.

Capability for field-upgrading from one model to the tive in that it does not need water cooling.

multiprocessor working; otherwise auch a machine fidence is what kind of cooling will be required. All the back to the money markets for further loans, and would offer little more than the Attached Processor competing mochines at the top end from Amdahi, Hitachi and Fujiisu are air-cooled, whereas the 3032 and Companies are leasing 303X machines rather of There is also disagreement on whether there are four 3033 ore water-cooled. Some observers, including buying them because of the uncertainty about or five models in the line; it would be usual for more Amdahl, believe that this will continue in the H-seriea, models to be in development than will actually be while others have auggested that Fraon gas will be used

power range of three to four million instructions per rated as comparable with o 370/145. A significant H-series.

Improvement in performance could be achieved Improvement in performance could be achieved in moving much of the disc administration out of the pend into the 3880, and to offer the naw large which disc, in much of which is thought to be imminent with 3880 on a new machine would give a substantial about tage over the 303X line even if the CPU were not an interest in the could the user protect his interests in the base.

How should the user protect his interests in the face this uncertainty? Clearly a good leasing contract sound insurance against sale prices of 303x max. collapsing once the H-series is announced value 1980 or the first quarter of 1981.

A US publication, Computer Marketing Newsletter second at the bottom to 15 or 16 at the top is postulated.

3031s and 3032s are particularly vulnerable, but 3.

For users who need more IBM power in a burry tel Amdahi 470V/8, so u machine onering about 40% more power than the 3033 would be an appropriate addition.

The various processors are apparently being deventian three channels would cost about £250,000, comparable 2021.

For those looking for further clues to the likely hand the money will be required mainly to finance las H-serias, and if IBM expects this to continue formation 1980, it suggests that the launch is not imminent Octaperformance, too, IBM announcements can normalis

wipes out all the files on the

The likely customers for

businesses with no previous ex-

- perlence of electronic business

systems. They will therefore

require a lot of after-sales sup-

port. Who is going to pay for

that 12 months from now there

will be widespread-stories of

There is a very aerious danger

small companies which have Sale, Cheshire.

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without ensuring that the

the "get rich quick" ment

#### LETTERS to the EDITOR

#### Fortran standard Small can be dangerous. I CAN assure Messrs Balley and menta. With luck, "core" For- THROUGH your columns may I faulty program or an operator

that ANSI's X3J3 committee nild hibernate for a few years before embarking on another Fortran standard, have been Fortran virtues, and adequate mude in standards circles sometimes with considerable vigour! I have two comments.

Firstly, even il X3J3 wnnted to hibernate (which, ngreed, it docs not), it would not be allowed to made on it - a point I Indicated in my article.

Secondly, as well as atandardialng existing practice (or, more usually, trying to recoucile different existing practices), there is a lot to be said for trying to provide a standard to meet the needs of current known developments - for trying to stup the portubility problem getting worse, if you like. Providing standard handling focilities, before the variants proliferate, is an obvious example. I hate to think of the shamhles there whild be in a few years, in that area alone, if X3J3 did hibernate.

Core-plus-modules is an attempt to bring some kind of long-term order and control into . Fortran development, to cope with a number of such develop-

IN his article on early computers

digital computer, in 1941, How-

ever, Stibitz Model One was

operational from January, 1040.

What did the 23 have to warrant

the acculade that Model One

Dounld Michie replies: The

Stibitz Complex Number Com-

inter, retrospectively known os

the Model One, allowed a single

operation of a time in complex

withmetic (initially just multi-

plication or division) involved in

desk calendator style. It did not

in itself incorporate any notion. of executing a pre-set sequence

af such operations, nor of

Abbey Lire,

UNNINGHAM~

EDP Audit Manager

Vallance (CW, February 28) that tran will prove to be a compact suggestions similar to their own, (fairly) modern, generalpurpose language, stable from revision to revision, still recogfor most purposes for which Fortan has always been used.

trouble the average Fortran programmer no more than the existence of subroutine libraries because of the demands being does now. Which brings me to my inst point. I can assure your correspondents that in designing the core-plus-modules nrchitecture, the existence of the CALL mechanism has not

Queen Elizabeth College, University of London.

express aome horror at the curerror. So what happens the day rent developments in the amall the statements are to be run off computer market. Many small and the operotor accidentally businesses have now got the firm impreasion that for lesa than £3,000 they can buy a computer system which will take £3,000 systems are small

cure of all their requirements. The existence of modules need At an exhibition recently was talking to a salesinnn for a small aystem which is to be offered with a 10-megabyte Wincheater disc. My query about back-up was met by the reply that Winchester discs do not go wrong. While I am quite prepared to believe that the reliability of Winchester discs is several orders of magnitude BRIAN MEEK better than conventional discs ! do not believe they will provide

#### protection against either a Fancy dress banned

WITH reference to the Dewntime ham en the pester displayed in the Hong Kong metre (CW, Fabruery 21), the eign on the bet-tem right is to advise people that fancy dress and precessions are prohibited within the metro preprohibited within the metro pre-mises. The dregon is a well-knewn part of Chinese mythe-logy.

What is more amusing about

tising campaign created for the Mess Trensit Railway entitled this pester es "Do's end Den'ts" - yet it is all "Oen'ts" and ne-

CHRIS RYAN Group Services Division Meneger Mills & Alien Cemmunications

Was Zuse an Olympian? IN his article on early computers (CW. February 14). Donald Michie quotes Zuse's Z3as being the liret electromechanical oldering or extending the repersormed for of nyaliable operations, for example by plug-board protesting in Mark 5 which went far

gramming, nor did it have a beyond thase restricted capabilities and qualified for the Z3 In logical essence, then, it was occolode - but two or three an electromechanical chichia- years nftcr the Z3. tor. The innovotory quality, Further information on these impressive for the time, resided and related matters con be not just in the calculative use of telephona reloys but also in the doll's back, The Origins of machine's ability to be used Digital Computers (Springer

Verlug).

#### 1984 and all that...

THIS week's example of the atrange things people say about computers was sent in by Ian Flaher of Intereurope Technical Services, Wokingham, who wins £5.

Max wee a genius with computers. He would att before the console beard and play the meshines like a virtuese. It did not matter what language the computer had been taught, for Max speke all of them. He talked to digital computers and low-level and high-level language computers. He was at easy with FORTRAN and FORTRAN IV, the giant ISM 370s and the top 10s and 11s and ALGOL 58.

the POP 10s and 11s and ALGOL 68.

It was at home with COBOL, pregrammed for business, and 8ABIC, used by the police, and the high speed APL, which conversed solely in charts and graphs. Max talked to LISP and APT, and the PL-1. He held conversations in the binary code, and questioned the critimatic units and the CPV units, and the high-speed printer snawared his quastions of

the rate of 1,100 lines a minute:

Max Haming and the computers had a wenderful rapport. They did not lead to the terms of the computers had a wenderful rapport. They did not lead to the the things accent, or the way he locked, or dressed. To the computers has wes a glant. They respected his intelligence, admired him, loved him. They happily geve up their secrets to him, shering their delicious gostip about the feals that mertals made of themselves. It was like aid friends chatding.

from Bloodline, by Sidney Sheldon

UK industry sets up BCS award winners to present papers
WINNERS of the three cate- ment of computing, was wen by A new award far lobby group

Harry Johnson, sales director

The group will also take an

support policy for the UK com-

thot it is not a trade association,

and that BETA and the CSA are

performing this job adequately.

But it was felt these bodles could

Doug Eyeions, director-

general of the CSA, disputed this

reasoning, commenting to Com-

puter Weekly, "UKITO may

generote a demarcation dispute

between British-based and

Eyeions continued, "If UKITO

does not intend to play any part

urement regulations, it could be

counter-productive in the most

UK-owned hardware manufacturers and service companies at Ferranti, who is UKITO's first (CW. February 28) has now been chairman, said, "We don't want mally set up. The name is the a French lamb situation arising United Kingdom Information In relation to British com-Technology Organisation, and puters." the 12 founder members include ICL, Nexos, GEC Computers, Interest in the government's Ferranti and CAP.

The formal objectives of the, puter industry. It emphasises group are "To advise the UK" ernment and Parliament, and other public bodies and European institutions, on matters relating to the UK-owned not be real UK lobbies because and controlled computer in- they include foreign-owned dustry which are of political, commercial and technological significance, and which may affect national policies; and to monitor the implementation of international trading arrangements so as to ensure that any discrimination against UK in- British-owned companies which terests is challenged and will introduce a confusing and removed, and to ensure that divisive role in the computer UK-owoed and controlled organisations are offered fnir opportunities under these

arrangements." In the main lobby, but sees its UKITO's most immediate role solely as drawing attention concern is the proposed changes to the rules of GATT and the ulred for its members in the face EEC to make public sector of future EEC and GATT procpurchasing in all participating countries open-tender.

Saidoneofthe founders of the important task of making French government would petitive." genuinely go opan-tender but

group, "There is no way the British industry more com-It will be open to other comthere is a chance the UK panies to join UKITO if they

**BBC** experiments with radio data signals

THE 88C is conducting trials display on the radio with the involving the transmission of a display on the radio with the data signal with audio pro- to which it is tuned. amme material on radio

ganisations which are working n systems for transmission at medium and long wavebonds the 8BC is alone.

applications for a signal at 25 bps. Uses could include feeding a lideu.

The trials include one with the Central Electricity Generating The European Broadcasting Board in which electricitity Union is discussing standards in the VHF band with national orange in CEGB employaga' homes are turned on and off around 1,200 bps, but in the off-peak loading to be increose from the puwer station, anabling

This experiment prompted a The BBC wants to develop from MP Gwilym Roberts about the "Big Brother" nspects of tha

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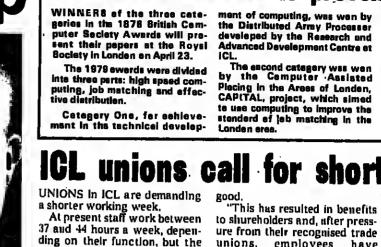
#### Bureau develops Pos systems

by the Scan Data bureau. The



JOHNSON . . . "We den't went a French lemb situation origing in

Regent VDU, an Okidata matrix printer and the Chubb terminals. support, have been extremely 1981. With a price in the region 3031 costing £500,000.



A POINT-OF-SALE system based on the Chubb Cash CR3/ 220 terminal has been developed system features o Consort 128K processor, a dual disc drive, a



pected to osk for a significant rewarda. reduction over the next few

working conditions claims. In a report outlining the case

"This has resulted in benefits with a vested interest in chunge to shureholders and, after press- and new systems of work, ICL ure from their recognised trade has shown reluctance to give ding on their function, but the unions, employees have real consideration to shorter joint staff trade unions are ex- managed to extract finuncial working hours for its own

#### It is the first time the unions. Storage Tech launch to rival IBM 3880

which include ASTMS, APEX. AUEW/TASS, and EESA, have AT the announcement of his of \$143,000, the STC 4500 tape put forward a claim of this na- company's anawer to IBM's new unit comes in 75 and 125 lps ture by itself. Previously it has 8809 tape drive, Storage Tech- versions. been lodged as purt of pay and nology Corp chairman Jesse Awelda revealed that an intelligent controller, expected to ASTMS initional officer Tim launched at the end of this year, Webb snys "After a period of and that a high performance

was won by the British Shee Corp

lepment of a computer centrolled printing system built around a

Tickets for the function are

available from the BC8. Tol: 01-637 0471.

#### Trafford expands

for a shorter working week rival the IBM 3880, would be PLANNING to extend terminal services to user departments, Trafford Metropolitan Borough uncertainty in the early 1970s, disc system would be available is changing from a 1 megabyte ICL's results, with government for first ahipments in summer IBM 370/138 to a 4 megabyte

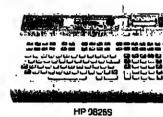
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#### Back to zero at the Post Office

way to find out everything them through, owing to the there is to know about some- worldwide shortage of bits o thing is to go right to the top. wire and holes. But to run out Sometimes my iliusiona are of numbers! Another historic

I was talking an the phone What you do not realise, of the other day to Professor course, is that in parallel with James Merriman, until this the Chrimon Market has recently member for techno- as well as the Butter Mountain logy of the Post Office board.

our conversation for a few having to be given away to the seconds, after which Professar Ruesians because the BPO ia Merriman commented, "That's too praud to accept charlty. a new one on me. I haven't. We have warned the Russians

telephones who on enril does? The phylons answer of course

ably, Still, the Post Office does seem to have this knack for defying the laws of light, or even of mathematics.

An acquaintance of mine wire flyes in Cherleywood has been told he can't have a phane because they have run out of pleane numbers. Now I seem to remember being taught in maths lessons youks ngo that the set of integers is Infinite. I could uniferstand it if our girt who wouldn't be seen deer

British achievement.

a Bits of Wire Mountnin and a A noise of pips Interrupted Holes Mountain. These are heard that before." we wan't stapsending the stuff
Well, sir, if you dan't knaw intil they get out of Afghan-

what is going on an the Istan. is, nobody.
Am I being unkind? Prob-

"I went you to find me the hind of

#### Hoist on their own machine?

of power in Washington tell me Think of the temptation on the that the Justice Department is firm's engineers and software starting to use a computer to support people to make a few spot violations af anti-trust minor adjustments when no laws. A database of judgments in monopoly cases is being constructed, and amang other things the machine could spat when different firms have intermeking boards of directars when I hey dida't oughter.

Only and roughter.
Only and problem springs to my nind. The most notorious anti-trust case pending interest fusiness Machines Corporation of Pittaburg. Does not be the problem of Pittaburg. Does not be the problem of Pittaburg. anti-trust case pending Involves a certain Very Large Computer Company. The detabose le probably on one of

MY prowlers in the corridors this company's machines. one is looking!

if IBM losea the case because of the machine, it really would be an inetance of a gunsmith being shot with his own pro-

enybody know enything shout this firm? Think it might be worti investing a bob or two in?



#### GILB'S MYTHODOLOGY

new way to learn Japanese.

Admittedly the home com-

puter does lead to exceasive ex-

perimentation auch as this. We

try to do things just to see if they

can be done, without due regard

for the coat-effectiveness of

But we do learn and get ideas

computers. Admittedly there is a

lendency to escapiam. What we

do at home with the computer

muat not resemble the kind of

thing we are obliged to do at

adoing them.

How hobby

systems can

inspire DP

AT an Amsterdam pub. the "Hoppe" at Spui Street (where else do you think I get Inspira-tion far this column?), I met a chnrming fellow tectotaller who, upon learning that I had an Apple Computer at home (I wear a sign an me from New York saying "I love the Big Apple"), confided in me a most intriguing

At the Dutch Space and Aeronautics Research Establishment they have an Appletek. In Dutch it is probably called an Apple-theek, since the unalogy is with a library (bibliotheek).

It has about five Apple Ii computers which are lent out to employees for up to two weeks at a time. There are about 50 research workers involved and this service was reparted to be quite popular. The computers could he taken home, and the only obligation was to write a report telling what use had been made of It.

Now isn't that a nice idea for your computer installation? After all you and your family will love to try to beat the Microcineaa program.

My boys recently forced me out into the unknown nrea of: colaur and sound computing by insisting that we made a about what is possible with psychedelic Russian Roulette gama (the pistol cylinder revolvea in colour, saying click, click, click, while you walt In tense suspense to see if the multicoloured bullet is fired nr not).

**FOCUS** 

THE computer profession is

DPMe are far happler

inging at last month's IDPM

on Docs the environment mat-

Theae ranged from ubandoned

trunking to the inability of en-

vironmontal angineers to

eliminate spiking or, closer to

Women'a liberation, inciden-

gory data-tale to relate.

land, static.

Admittedly, we have made Undoubtedly, many readers mare constructive programs to help the kids with their Eaglish and German homework. own expense. But who knows, Last autumn I hod seven maybe this is an idea for a new

Japanese visitors at home for an kind of hidden "perk." evening meal, all computer people. As a gesture, I taught the A home computer for the DP user professional, at company ex-Apple ta speak in Japanese for pense, is probably a justified them. I think it was the first time expense. Yet after hours it can they had heard a computer even give pleasure to the employee try to speak Japanese.
As they were finishing their

professionals caffee, I sat down at Apple, next to them, and loaded my kids' software to the employees, which the majority of us perhomework program with Japanese-English phrases from haps cannat yet afford. Perhaps a Berlitz booklet. I then proreeded in try to improve my score adverts which list an Appletek for recognising Japanese or Pet library for employeea as phrases, in show my guesta a one of the many benefits of

employment in the company. There is the aspect of encouraging employees to develop their skills at their own expense and time. Yet who knows, maybe that operator who so sorely wants to break into programming can be given a chance to develop and demonstrate his or her akills and, If these are impressive, he or ahe should be given a chance at the new

Perhaps the systema analyst has been so busy analysing that he or she has lost touch with what is really practical and poshave, or soon will have, their sible on computers. Maybe own hobby computer at their playing with a hobby computer playing with a hobby computer would encourage them to deve-lop their skills, and would generate some ideas of far more user-friendly interactive diala-

There is a lot of junk amang the programa offered to hobby users. But there are some examples of humon engineering The company can afford to which are far superior to the



dent cansultant, lectory ! and author on computin

stuff regularly served to: of larger scale software

Maybe some of our by hould borrow from the to hardware/software libro (Computerware Library) E. might develop some kees more professional programs by others at work Or here even make some of there tools, and relleve some of pressure on the profess programmers.

And maybe the "bos" de play with a home compute company expense. Even 13

There is a danger that the will get too involved and it he knows all the answers! think the boss would be

I'll never forget the Our., tions and Methods manager London firm who told we: whea he found out it cheaper to buy a hob; puter than to go three (£800) farmal purchasin, edures, he bought two?-

One was for the mat. directar while the other w. himself. It was cheaper the

# CAFS flexibility key to ICL's first sale

first customer for the bock-end database system (CW, February 21).

present only ICL 1900 and DME software le writ-subcontruct the disc transfers to the subsystem. ten, but versions are being written for the ICL VME operating systems.

"All the software database systems which we

Introducing the IBM 5120 . . .

THE BBC has launched a com-

pany called BBC Data which will

avestigate ways of selling in-

storage system was the key reason for the Central spokesman explained. "They supported either Selling Organisation of De Beers becaming the rapid input and updating, or rapid retrieval, hu nothing else provided what we need, which is both CAFS imposes no software overhead on the CAFS, Content Addressable File Store, is a mainframe, which is impartant hecause we suffer hardware file search aystem which runs as a fram an excess of disc accesses with many users in peck-end processor to an ICL mainframe. At contention for infarmation, and CAFS allows us ta

"We also found that conventional databases were rather cumbersome, particularly IMS, and impnsed a big stuff and resource overhead which will not be needed with CAFS."

Another attraction was that CAFS fitled In with CSO's existing ICL 2060 running under DME; the organisation also has number of 2903s and 2004s.

"Mnst important of all, we needed an enarmously flexible system, and CAFS meets this requirement very well," said the spokesmaa.

Another idea being considered at CSO is the use of CAFS far fast searching of text prepared on n word pracessor. No deci-sion has yet been taken on this.

#### Park to be 'active' **IDPM** chief



offers comperable facilities at e substantially lower price. For month. BBC Data company launched BBC Data is already un infor-

mntion provider on Prestel In-

ternational and is looking fur the

NEW president of the lastitute of Data Processing Manage ment, Alex Park, accepted the office on the conditian that he could take an active role in the institute. So suld chairman Neville Tuylor, speaking after a executive conacil meeting I

London last week. Park, wha takes office at the Institute's annual meeting on Thuraday, July 17, told Chm-puter Weekly that he had accepted the nomination because the 1980s would be the era of communicating information. He is director and vice-presiden of iTT (UK) responsible for finnncial controls and was formerly executive vice-

chulrman of British Leyland. He said DP was the best way of conveying information which is the key to mnnagement. Ha believed the information revolution would radically alter the way organizations were mation would have to go straight to the decision-makers as there would not be enough people or time to collect it

manually. Park, who succeeds Tnny Hardcaatle, sald that his attitude to the presidency was to belo the institute to maet the challenge of the 1980a which would be coming from information

Aithough Park has a degree in enginaaring, most of his working life has been connected with the financial aspacts of in dustry. In 1974, he joined British Layland as finance director and in 1975 was given the task of implementing the Ryder Plan, When the government abandnned the plan in 1977, he became executive vice-chalrman but left the company in the spring of 1978.

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# Blowing hot and cold in

noted for having a high regard for technology. Unfortunately thia interest does not usually extend to the computer en-Such matters should concern OP mnnagement, for in no other areas of computing are opera-tions and procedures more vulnerable.

patching-up faulty software or hardware than a loose floor anel or blinking light. What as, preaumably, to their male udgets are avallable are more colleagues. Long-flowing hair is usually spent overhauling prono friend of the computer engramming procedures or opera-

tor training than eliminating bunches, preferably with innvironmental hazards. dustry approved types of string. Neglect of the air conditioning ystem, for instance, could prozoning into certain small busiduce an equally dramatic impact as neglecting the regular scheduling of preventative mainte-nance. Such neglect could trigger delayed action corruption in such sensitive areas as magnetic

At worst, the installation. could have to suspend operationa while complete overhaula are mountad. At best, the operating team would exlat in cur and frustration nf yet another heod cmsh. Alarm bells were certainly

procaedings Such aales practices wera strongly condamned by one of Central London bronch meeting the speakers, Terry Benson, ter? Had a vote beon taken, faw would have given the thumbs Prime Computers' northern area field manager. His organisation. down. There appeared to ba few present who did not have come far from encouraging the inetalrusting nails faund in celling

Similarly interfacing computer aystems with high tem-peratures and humidity is a

lally, dnes not axi and to female operators Nylon and leather do According to Prime, the UK things to the machines as well office presents more problema

feature of company life. vironment and is best tled into

The meeting lost little time in they could warm up. ness system saleamen who, by implication euggest that any topic of computer environment was Les Hedley, UK marketing manager of Wright's Air Conndd office corner would be sultable for their machine, providing that a power source is reosonditioning. There was, Hedley

That the salected site la elther permanently cold and draughty from being sited by the back door, nr amply hot due to closa proximity of the boller room, Is nnt of major concern to the supplier. His tolerance ievel is evident only during the sales

lation of annII minicomputers in abandoned coal sheds, waa emphatic that dust and dises dld

not work together. critical path to damaging com-ponent tolerances and computar

regulations.
For from being a b requirement, the com;-

For a start, few DPMs

be the measurement eam when the air con plant goes on the blink

#### Main contractor

IN a Softwera File story to eystem at Northwick Park kn Harrow, Middlesex (CW, Far 28), it was not made clear of mein contractor in the por-Plessey Communications at

#### 10 years ago

From Computer Weekly of March 12, 1976.

ROLLS-ROYCE was principal sponsor behind glans for tha creation of a European computer services group, hnown as System internationel, whatsa sim was to ensure that a sighificent share af the booming merket for computer services ramained in European hands. Ta meet the demends of extra husinase, the Post Office installed five Leo 326s worth over £2 militan at the National Savings Bank, tha National

Similarly emphatic on the

aaid, still a lot of Ignorance

where the computer environ-

ment was concerned

On Metcalle created Ethernet and has worked extensively with Arpanet and Froemet He was be assisted by John F. Schoch, an expert in local computer networks from the Xerox Pato Allo Research Center. California. For more information on registering for the Local Computer Networks Conten-ence, glease complete the coupon and return to Jan Devon, Regent House, 50 Kmg. Street, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1, 3SH, England; or call 01-891-4951, or Tetex: 8814092 Conter C.

Standards and the Strategic value of compatibility:

Evising and planned local computer networks, including a number of different Ethernet-tike systems, and CATY networks.

4 cassing along the computer networking technologies, which positions various local computer networking schemes in a four-dimensional networking design space.

Excel a minuter computer space.

Local computer-communications protocols and their relationship to remote-computer

Communications protocols:

Interneting of local- and remote-computer networks stressing the role of galeways.

Underlying technologies, including LSI, liber optics, CATY and software structutes

Integration of terromats, voice, video, and their application in electronic mail and

s of halfic and performance and their implications on design.



by Claire Gooding

Covering

by Judith Morris

mors which provide instruction end advice on age end the use of lenguege stenderds, provarious aspects of their creft. A Guide to Good gram documentation, maintenance and team-Programming Prectice, by Brien Meek end Patricla Heath, however, goes one step further

then most in thet it covers virtually every espect of programming in a conclas and read-sbis form, with advice from ten apsoisilate from industry, education and commerce.

Problems investigated include analysis, de-

#### -Concise and readable guide—Personalised extensions to Cobol 'dangerous'

Interest in last week's article about the compeny and langusge named Cobra and the general succeae of aoftwere

But it eppears many people use tendency for people in en software generators so packages and utililies which efficiently that tha programmers themselves are unaware of their What is more, different companiea heve very variad opinions

about the way generators said than done, and there in hould be used. Inevitably many obstacles in a way of those who try to do so. ahould be used. SPC Systema in Wimbledon,

rang to tell us of his views end his experience of the subject. "Our company uses a Cobol generator which is installed at many sites throughout the UK," he said, "It is almilar to Cobre in new standards and feature is people require takes out out

theory, but the emphesis is dif-

The amphssis Piggott speaks
of la on the language itself rether
and implement changes to Carl than the genaretor. Purity of the which will cater for than which Cobol language is something, many different installations : Piggott is eager to maintain, and the same time. he refarred to tha practice of individuals developing their . Cobol is alresdy there in the own extensions where they standard, but is one of the found Cobol unsatisfactory as a

"very dangerous activity".
The difficulty starts when one acks: Whose work does the expisined Piggott. "But the generator replece? Given that it number now use it who is the programmer's, this meens know it existed before." that when it becomes time to change and maintain the pro- pened with the Cobol validation grem, he has to deal with some- feature, which SPC imple thing he had no hand in writing. mented on ICL 1900 and its

"What is the code?" asks machines. Four years ago a B Piggott. "is it Cobol or not? The committee brought out a my oew element in Cobol which is on validation in Cobol via introduced by all theae in- was resurrected lsst year, whi dividual sites mekea it e com- new report was brought pletely different language, so which now provides s people everywhere have their specification for validation. own personalised language. This just makes things utterly confueling."

The Cobol validation feating a "instural extension to confueling."

The Immediate reaction is, of updating and error reporting wes a better language these improve Cobol itself and selfthings wouldn't be necessary." programmers who use it. 52 So why do people need to write Piggott, "eventusly forming and apply all these extensions standard language which

"Becsuse Cobol is out of date," ssya Plggott, "there is o these personal extensions."

troduce these new language.
Piggott's answer to the pa blem therefore lies not in des

Therefore, to formulate the

greet desi of careful planning

"The report-writer option:

"iBM officially provides

features which many plus

number now use it who the

More or less the same his

which provides input validati

but a long time.

base Aros is timed to coincide loping genarators but with some unfavourable opiimproving Cobol This less niona sbout IBM's own DL/I-DOS-CICS database mansgement system recently published in the US computer Preas and, "Codasyl make standar! not so auspiciously, with Insac's takeovar of the alling US subchanges but at a very slowner It can take up to ten year make changes to Cobol." sidiary Altergo Softwore Inc

Altergo's mansging director, Dave Browniee, is expecting it to add about £3 million a year to thegross sales value of Altergo's software products and increase current sales by 50%.

(CW. March 6).

The company hopes that Aroa will find favour as a communicationa software alternalive to IBM users across the 4300 range to the 303X. It can be used with CICS/VS or, ahould a user choose to be dependent on Altergo rather than IBM aoftware, with Altergo'e flagship, Shadow ii, which already has over 400 usars.

Altergo selected Aros after a search for a product to provide a database/data communications environment which would

ita Swedlsh developer. Rosam Adb, has elready spent 10 years working on Aros, in conjunction with Asee, the Swedish manufacturing company which now runs the system with an 8-megabyte 3033 under OS/ MVS, with 1,300 terminsis accessing a database apread across 50 3350 disc drives. ,

Apart from reduced overheads in memory and CPU utilisation compared with iBM's DOS/VS DL/I end the spacehungry IMS, Aros is seld to cut the disc I/O overheed by half. Physical I/O, says Aitergo, ls faster than any IBM access method, and the elimination of pointers and chaining techniques resuits in fast reaponse

If the product lives up to the claims made for it, It might find a res dy mark et in the US. A recent Computerworld survey reported that of 25 433i tisers, only five intended to use the DL/i-DOS/-CICS dstabase, and according to complaints from users who had

Altergo database will hit IBM's DL/I ough, incked sophistication and in one case feiled to interact properly with CiCS or VSE/

> US users are awitching to other vendors, and a recently released pschage from Consolidated Business Systems called DAI is also almed at pro-

viding an elternative to DL/I. But Altergo cloims that Aros, with its competitive elze, speed and security features, is the "first full function database management system specifically designed for the iBM teleprocessing/online environment," and seems confident that it will find a raady market.

Aros runs under DOS/VS. DOS/VSE, OS/VS1 and MVS In four different versions, and prices for a one-time licence vary from £15,000 to £45,000.

You probably don't need

computers make sanse, both

However if you're a sarious

computar user you want tha

same levels of performance,

flexibility and reliability

designed our Bleck Box

Microcomputer.

you've hed (we hopal) from

your mainframe systems. It

technology we packaged our-

8085A microprocessor with

64 K bytes of RAM memory.

two high cepecity minidiek

drives, programmable I/O

interfaces, Real-Time Clock,

etc. into a compact desk-top

range of microcomputer

applications.

system ideelly sulted to a wide

We also made sure that our

functionelly and aconomically

convincing that micro-

International directory

Directory of Software, compa-nion to the Computer Users' Year Book, is now available (Boftware Bupplement, February 14). Its main purpose is to anebid readers to locate software pro-ducts suitable to their products

readers to looste software pro-ducts suitable to their needs and compatible to their equipment, and it provides over 1,000 pages of information on important soft-ware products throughout the world.

The information is divided into six aections with the aim of halping the user to make a rapid salection and comparison of pro-ducts. The first of these is a com-

gap in products English, French and Garman, and the other five eactions are all preceded by instructions on how A PAYROLL and personnel in-

to use them in three languages.

The larguest section provides detailed software product dedividing them into categories such as development aids, compilars and utilities.

The other sections give further

details, comprising an index of products by cetagory with hard-ware requirements, an index of induatry specific products, pro-filea of actiware suppliars, and an alphabatical list of products.

#### Harris gets Fortran validation

The microcomputer that thinks

it's a mainframe

achieved US government vslidetlon for Fortran 77.

Supported under the Vulcan operating system, the Fortran 77 compiler is now available in the screen-handling and data-entry UK with the Harris 100, 500 and

PARSON

Fortran 77 is the ninth language to be made availabla under Vulcan, which also aupports Task, Total and Shadea, the

Watsons Computer Systems of Liverpool for about £8,000. Wetsons believes that the product covers an area not calered for by Burroughs' own softwere, and hopes to find o market for the system omong banks and large institutions using Burroughs 90 and upward

quiry system originally designed for Banque Nutionale de Peris is

now being merketed in the UK

by its developers, the Burroughs

specialist software house

The payroll and recorde integrated system, known as Peris: stonds alone as a set of five modules written in Cobol, centred around a bosic unit. Using simple screen menus and cetegories specified by the user, relatively unskilled staff can select information by entering up to 20 parameters.

# 'Vansions on a hexagon' Concaption, A Cainer Casign, J.F. Colonna, on a SEMS computer at LACTAMM. In Joint laboratory of Ecole Polytachmous and Ecola Nationals Supplements des Miscommunications. See as

#### THOMSON-CSF INFORMATIQUE: PART OF A BIGGER IDEA

Systame and products in Electronic Deta dustrial and commercial resources of the Processing are evolving at a rapid pace. total THOMSON-CSF Group - e worldwide More than ever before, a unified effort is leader in alectronic systems and equipcalled tor io research and utilizeali possibla tachnological advences end altamatives.

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systems office automation, EOP for small and madium-sized enterprises

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Struggling and juggling A FEATURE on this page some months ago about the company

F international revealed to some extent tha role and responsibilltlea thet profassional women csn have in the world of computera (Page Six, November B,

Women in the US, however, difficult, according to e recant
Women in Data Proceasing
meeting in New York

One apeaker at the conference, a aenior manager for Price Weterhouse, said, "Women struggle and juggle their lives and careers not only in subtle but obvious ways. They also contend with mental guilt and pressures from other people."

These pressures seem to be the result of "juggling" prior-ities "one day a sick child, the next a business trip." Strengely enough, the employees of F Intarnational

and Indeed other women in in-

dustry we have apoken to view these conflicts quite differently.

They seem to consider to mixture of work and domestreeponsibilities as satisfying. We would like to hear their

from women in the computer business, particularly those st are also involved in raising femily, to see if, as the Nex You



you might call a "described reverse." The seven placed as make up this arrow at a paranged to form a square, and no piece turned over See page 53 for solution

#### YME/K version of Q-Pay being developed

SOFTWARE FILE

Q-PAC Services of Maidenhead took advantage of Computermnrket in Birmingham last week to announce the availability of its Q-Puy payroll, personnel and labour costing system to run under ICL's 2900 VME/B operating system.

#### Going for Datapro hat-trick

FOLLOWING the success of Logout and Boost in the Datapro honour roil (Software File, February 7), Macro 4 is putting its latest product, Dumpmaster, on general release after extensive and productive field tests.

it can be used in IBM DOS/VS and DOS/VSE environments and provides a "mini-dump" which extracts the relevant information needed by an applications programmer to trace bugs and identify failures. Diagnostic information is

produced in a condensed report in which some of the interpratation is anticipated, thus saving much programmer time otherwise spent ploughing through superfluous pages of diamed to reduce peace is also claimed to reduce paper wastage.

Macro 4 adapted the product for DL/I users after recommen-British Caledonian. David Support at British Caledonian, commented that it had been of particular value in Account of the comment of the comm

The progroms are written in Cobol under IBM DOS, and converters have been developed to produce versions for other monufacturers' hardware. VME/K is under development for iCL users, ns nre Honeywell Level 66 and Level 64, and the suite is already running on Bur-roughs B6800 and Hewlett-Packard HP 3000 hardware. The package is a complete

system with no optional modules, and takes up about 30K-words an an ICL 1000 and about 65K-bytes on an iBM or other byte machine. The customer enters his own parumeters to match the system to his own requirements and can continue to use his existing input documente. Setting up takes oetween two and eight weeks. The cost is £5,000 for a 500-

employee system, which gives the user o five-year licence, with full updates. There is an additional £500 a year maintenance cherge, and efter five yesrs, contracts ere renegotlated at 70% of the then going rate for the package.
About 130 companies run the

system, and it is running as a pilot system at two VME/B sites, VME/K is likely to be ready in

particular value in Assembler which are also based in Berk-

#### Post Office commissions SPL for portable Chill front end

THE Post Office has commissioned SPL's international produce a portable front and for its Chill compilers.

Chill is the language developed by the international international signing, testing and evaluating the language developed by the international signing, testing and evaluating the language developed by the international signing testing and evaluating the language developed by the international signing testing and evaluating the language developed by the international signing testing and evaluating the language developed by the international signing testing and evaluating testing testing and evaluating testing testin

leged by the Internetional signing, teating the US Department of Defance language Ade, as well addressed the Committee which research on a real time variant of Pascal, it is intended to have a mainframea minis and micross

**RAIR Black Box** systam could grow with your applications. You can connact up to 16 seperate tarminsis and peripherels, and operate tham simultaneously, and for large database applications you can

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aii fully supported by our enhenced disk operating But of course a

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80 M bytes of on-line storaga,

microcomputer is only as good sa its softwara. Our software catalogue includes BASIC Compiler and Interpreter. FORTRAN IV and COBOL 74 Compliers, Sorl/Merge, Dalabasa, Communications. Word Processing packages, Scientific end Commercial Applications, etc.

Most important, the Black Box has a proven track record and is supported by e U.K. wide meinienance service, Oh we nearly forgott the price of the Black Box starts at just over £2000; so if you're. thinking about micros, we'd likis to been from your

DIGITAL • ANDERSON JACOBSON • TRANSDATA • AMJACQUARD • MELLORDATA • NEWBURY LABORATORIES • TEX Monitors and integral terminals from £87 per month Separate P/T Cassette unlis from 243 per month.
Separate Disketie unils from 260 per month. 120 cps from Contact Mike Brooke or Philip Ety. Tel: Byfleet 53151 4 4910 4 £87 per month compatible) from £33 per month 11/2 Poriable from APL from \$47 per month £63 per month VI 52 and other options from 247 per month SHORT TERM RENTALS Daisy Wheel from £104 per month T • TREND • QUME • DIABLO • LEAR SIFGLER • TALLY • PERICOM • TECHTRAN ALSO AVAILABLE Specialists in the renting of terminals are well-known for providing their operators with an easy, his working life: "It's great relaxed environment in which working at the college as my they are, left olone to a certain relationships with my colleaextent — as long as the work gets done, that is.

dress in an informal fushion and deadlines are not treated as life. or death issues, ua they tend to he at the money-conscious bureau or commercial installa-

So it's good to hear from an operator who works at a uni-versity site — at Imperial College in Landon, to be exact.

He writes, "We operate on IBM 370 under IBM's latest nperating system, VM370, which I find easy us it has a very friendly user interface.

"The CMS (Conversotional Monitor System) interface allows for real user flexibility. A terminal user, for instance, can redefine his whole commond directory into French if he so have been writing EXEC procdesires by using the SYNONYM edures which ore very useful for

The operators are ullowed to that operators are treated as secondary to systems ond pro-gramming staff both at his site Industry in general.

Commenting on the attitude

He hlames management for not giving operations staff the cliance to use their skills and initiative.

aclity."

performing loformation retrieval and command despatch on

#### 'Paper qualifications no guarantee of success'

"A FRIEND of oline didn't get some stage during their career and therefore tend to be rather proved to be a far better proommer than a number I know who have computer science de-

"Surely that proves that paper qualifications aren't a guaraotee of success in the computer in-Thus Derek Price replies to programmers.

comments on careers and coreer progression (CW, February 21) thorough knowledge of hardmade by John Wedge, a Burroughs 3500 operator.

In essence, Wedge said that operators tend not to be promoted out of the computer room because most of them are not very well-educated and have little interest in career progres-

A DEC PDP-11 operator at a merchant bank in the City of London, Price comments:

"I must disagree with the view of John Wedge when he aays many DP managers makes them that most operators ar recruited at a 'relatively low level,' must sites being content with just o few O-levela.

Theo he soys that few operators ore career-minded. Well, I nical support staff and so pro-have been in operations for gression does, in fact, often some three years and in my experience that is just not the and into programming.

in the path of the operator ferently at the larger installocomputer industry the widelyheld view that coreur progressiun menns a move into programming, and the fact that training, the TP section and sys-

On DP managers, he chance of moving into opplica-comments, "Most DP managers tions programming if that is have been in programming at whot they want.

gues are so relaxed." Our friend Is, however, aware

in particular and throughout the

of the industry, he aays, "I think the pay of the average operator Is quite good. However, our mle In the industry does tend to be under-estimated, as is our ability do more responsible and creative work in the computer

sumenne for primotion." He goes on to suggest that, when given the opportunity. persons from on operations background make better DP thon

when it comes to picking

ware, operating systems and perhaps some systems programming would be more valuable to the DP manager than any amount of applications programming experience."

I must agree that most operators are interested in making good in the industry but that they get few opportunities to do

I also ahare Derek Price's view that the career background of insensitiva to the problems and aspirations of their operations

At the smaller installations there are likely to be few techmean a move out of operations

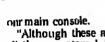
Price sees two major borriers gression should be treated diftise should be put to use in such areas as systems support, appli most DP managers have a back-ground in programming. tents programming. The opera-tors should also be given the

#### ICL machine needed

THERE'S a floo/Tee computer | dec, who says the system is a bit studies course (CW, Octuber 18) on at Tresham College in Corny and it's going very well — upart, that is, from one small hitch the time it takes to run the students. programs on the system.

The college has an ICL 1901A, back yard. Why not let Tresham a single-program mochine College have it, instead? which takes almut 20 minutes to Contuct Pip Ramaden, rompile a Cohol program, Tresham College, Corby, Norseconding to lecturer Pip Rams thaots, Tel 05300 3252.

of a bottleneck. Il you're the monager of a site which is converting from a medium-sized ICL 1900 system. doo't thruw the old machine away or heave it to rot in the

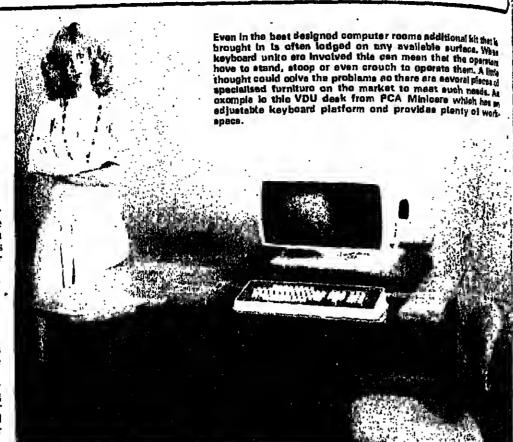


"Although these are used by all the operators I have come under criticism from above for writing such files, and to stop me from doing this, it has been auggeated that we operators have a read-only disc rather than a read/write one."

This doesn't bother the operators too much, though, as they are able to negotiate with the management to a certain

extent.
"But this is an axample of the sort of antagonism operations staff have to put up with," he

It is for that reason he advocates operators working together and standing up for themselves when confronted with hustility from other



# Now. Argus 700 Series 2. Multipower, multispeed, multichoice Multiprocessor flexibility Argus 700 Series 2 is based on new versions of the Argus 700 Series 2 is based on new versions of the Argus 700 Farility central processors which can be used in individually or in closely outpled groups a multiprocess.

individually or in closely coupled groups supported by a multiprocess operating system. Puttingthese together in various ways gives you performance ratio of 7:1 between the smallest and largest configurations and matches the needs of almosta: control, communication and information handlingapplications Over 2 million instructions

per second

This is the typical processing speed at the top end of the range at from the smallest to the largest configuration you'll getacost effective system, competitively

Local and cache memorit speed processing

You can now use a local or call rou can now use a local of the stands in designing computer memory for each Argus 700 Gar cache memory for Argus 700 Gar. addition to the main memory Uses cache memory reduces the loads the memory bus and can speed of processing by as much as 60% When the local memory is tised hold a processor's programands local operations make no dental the memory bus at all, leaving the handle bearing the memory bus at all, leaving the handle bear local operations. handle high speed interpress communication.

Intelligent channels tell

central processors
As well as multiple central
processors Series 2 hardware in
intelligent input/output change fixed programs to hardle round operations. They have access to memory bus and operate in the with central processors.

# in 'bias' against judge

IT looks ee it tBM end Judge deleteln are etuck with sech

Eight months after IBM todged an appeal against the 70-year-old judge on the grounds that he was blaced gainet the company (CW, July 18, 1979), the Second Circult Court of Appeals has turned fown the petition, saying that it was legally insulficient and that enywey it was made for to o lets in the case.

Judge Edelstein has beer ment's enti-truot caso ogoinet IBM without jury since it opened in May 1975. .

ISM is considering the dec sion. It could request a hearing before the full appeal court, or appeal to the Supreme Court.

.Observers believe that bot ides will finish presentation o their cases in June, and talks of an out-of-sourt settlement are

intelligent channels takes a lot of load

of the processors. The channels work

commands and interrupt the central

completed. They can trap errors and

G · CACHE · 2Fs

THEBUSSTRUCTURE

on chained input/output transfer

processor only when the chain is

try repeat transfers on their own,

### Prime makes bid for office market

systems market with a selection management loforuntion, not other towns currently being inof software packages to provide word processing and electronic mnil on its existing minicom-

Due to be launched in April, the systems are already running experimentally at the Bonk of Bergen in Norway. That system is also being used for computernided instruction and communication with IBM and compatible mainframes using 3270 eniulation. The word processing and

electronic mail software moke up a package called Primex, produced by US software house ACS. Other software packages in use in the system have been oround for some time.

The Bonk of Bergen is trying out a whole range of new functions with the system. almed at combining as many applications as possible in each deak-top terminal. The new equipment is separate from the bank's existing Philips branch

It's the second generation Argus 700.

now with multiprocessor capability, a spectrum of power

going up to twice previous speeds and a better

performance/cost ratio.

control of nuclear power stations and

changeover are the best means of

The architecture of Argus 700

backing stores and to access common

input/output drivers. You can either

divide the load equally between the

if one fails the other takes over the

Everything in the Argus 700

Series 2 range is directly compatible

whole, or critical parts of it.

compatible

two computers with the provision that

All hardware and software is

have a master/standby system or

ensuring security of operation.

computers to share memory and

Series 2 provides for pairs of

electricity grids, where dual

computers with automatic

the bank's financial transac- stalled. Communication links

A connection with the branch terminal network may be phased in luter.

The uffice system consists of

with IBM 3033 and Amdahl mainfromes are used for updating foreign exchange information and with a direct connection into Swill, the inmodel 550 minis in Bergen and ternational banking octwork.

#### Abacus offers low-cost word processing package

LOW-COST word processing is now heing offered by Abacus Edit, is used for inputting and Computers as an extra software editing text, and is capable of package for its PT20B desk-top computer. For £4990 purchasers get u 24-line VDU, 64K processor, twin double-density Hoppy disc drives, a Nippon Electric Spinwriter printer, and a word processing software package called Magic Wand consisting of two separate programs.

The WP software is split because there is not room for it all to be present at once, with text, buy the WP software for £750.

printing rough drafts. The other, Print, formats the text for fin-

Conditional priotlog can olso be done, such as selecting out all oddresses in a particular area.

The PT208 hardware is made in the US by Abacus' parent company, Texas Electronic Iostruments. Existing users can

COMPUTER WEEKLY, March 13, 1980

This Marconi ground station terminal controls a three motra dieh antenna used in the satellite link between Ruthorford isboratory and CERN in

#### Rooftop satellite link to Geneva under way A SATELLITE link was inaugu- achieved internutionally on the

rated last week hetween Rutherford Liboratory, near Oxford, and the CERN European Nuclear Research Centre in Geneva, using three metre dish untennae - the type expected to be used on rooftops in future office-to-office services. The link uses the Orbital Test Satellite put up by the Furgioni Space Agency in May 1978 and is one of a series of experiments being run in preparation for the European Com-

munication Satclife system to be established during the early Eightles for the European PTTs. The scheme was proposed by the EEC, and backing for the UK end comes from the Dol.

In April CNUCE physics laburatory in Plsa will join in, fullowed by the DESY laboratory in Hamburg later this year and the University of Graz Austria, University College Dublin, and the French Informutics research institute INRIA, near Paris, within the next two

In the enrly stages users will operate by bnoking time on the link through the administration office of Eutelsat in Poris, but later a simple time division multiplex scheme will be set up to allow ground atations to contend for channel space. Close co-operation has been

scheme, with software being developed at Rutherford to min on minicomputer ground station controllers at each site while hardware to interface the minis to the ground station was deve-Jorgal at CFRM The software is written in

BCPL and runs on a Gd. C 3080 at Rutherford, while at CTRN a rune on a Digital Equipment PDP II. The pround station forminals used at these sites were made by Marconi Communica tion Systems.

Co-operation laboratories was already under way in high energy intetent accelerator research and data was exchanged regularly by sending couriers. Now a full tupe can be transferred via the satellite to 20 minutes.

#### Microsystems 80 attracted 5,500

ATTENDANCE at Microsystems 80 at the end of January was over 5,500, nearly 50% บุค บก the 1970 figure. Visitors came from all parts of Europe, the Middle East and the Americas and over 35 industries and allselnlines were represented.

Microsystems 81 will run from March 11 to 13, 1981, nt the Wembley Conference Centre.

#### with earlier Argus 700 computers and software so you'll have no problem in updating or expanding existing Argus 700—the right choice From the system builders. systems. The system builder's computer. for dual systems The system builder's No one has more experience than feranti in designing computer Please tell me more about computer Ferranti are essentially systems Argus 700 Series 2. Post the coupon today Equipment Salas, Ferranti Computer Systems Limited STORE CONTROLLER ARGUS 700 F CPU

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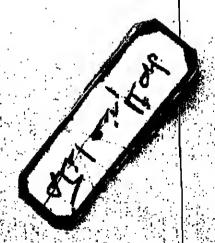
As you'll have gathered, that's not for us. Today our dealers are actively promoting the many advantages of the 16-bit Alpha Micro to businessmen. And many of our dealers have already benefited from the intensive, expensive and worthwhile Alpha training course.

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# THE ALPHA MICRO COMPUTER

#### **PEOPLE and EVENTS**

# Centronics expands European operation

IN a move to expand its European morketing operation, Centronics Data Computer has announced two new appoint-

CHIEF secoutive officer of

19M Fronk Cary hee an-nounced his plens to rathe after his 90th birthday in Decembar. He hoe headed LBM elice 1973.

Cary, whose retirement was anticipated on most 18 M executives retire at 60, would not say if he intended to remain

helman of the company one

eald it was premature to talk of plane for his succession.

Bob Doe has become service

manager for Rapid Recoll. He

joined the company in 1976 ag an

Mike Regent, until recently a

intel, has become sales director

Brinn Corre has joined Memorex UK as administrative

manager. He waa previously

Roger Barrelt and Martin Peal

have both been appointed area

managers for Powerline Elec-

tronics. Both were previously

vertising sales team for nearly

three years, is leaving to join

Rair Terminals as a aales engin-

wick Street, London W1, 18.00

The changing belance of man/ technology, institute of Admini-

AGM of BCS Fortron specialist

with Coutant Electronics.

southern area sales manager for

opplications department.

Gordon Ambidge becomes director of sales and marketing with Centronics and will he responsible for the company's printer market in Europe. H was previnusly international marketing manager for Perkin-Elmer Data Systems, and hos spent 15 years in the computer industry including periods with Burroughs, Data 100 and Data-

Newly-appointed European. product marketing monager for Centronics ls Ian Hillier-Brook, who previously spent seven years with Digital Equipment.

George Kendall, who has been with Prime Computer's govern-ment branch since 1976, has been appointed the first branch manager of the division after the appraide of government branch to district status. David Howes has become branch manager in government district. He was formerly senior sales executive with Prime's Haunslow office.

Peter Allon has joined MSS Computer and Business Consultaitey as marketing consultant specialising in the education and training areas. Harry Parker has also become u marketing consultont in accounting applications and David Pyke takes over insurance and banking applications.

Peter Jowett hos heen appointed to take charge of the Computer Weekly's display ad-West Midlands Gas computer scrvices. He has been controller ni computer services (designate) for the past five months and was previously the region's 2900 computer manager





Philippe Courtot has become international sales manager of Modular Computer Services. He joined Modcomp in 1974 aa founder of the French operation and his most recent appointment was European aales manager with the company.

Doug Staplea and Roy Horton have joined Case as territory managers for the north and south respectively. Staples was formerly with Racal-Milgo and Horton joins the company from Interscan Communication Sya-

Neale Wade has become regional anies manager for Geest Minicomputer Systems. He waa leaving to join AMD rejoined formerly a regional sales Ropid Recall last year in the manager with Texas Instru-





# Racal director

**RACAL Data Communications** group has announced the appointment of Geoffrey Meadowcroft as director. Meadowcroft, well known in the industry, was previously general manager for the data aystems division of ITT Business Syatems. He has also worked for Sandera Dath Systems and IBM.

Peter Weinreb has become operations for MSI Data International with responsibility for all MSI activities in Furone. He was previously director of Europeon operations.

Francea Lawn has become product manager with ITT uainess Systems. She used to be head of software aection with

David Booth has been appointed a director of Wiggins Teape Idem division. He was previously regional marketing manager for the UK and overseaa with the firm.

Judy Perkina has been appointed manager of the Pelco Alm Service Centre to set un a service contract arrangement for users of the Rockwell Alm 65 Phil Parkin has joined Com-

Howard Osborne has been puter Time Sharing Services as communications development of the manager with Arbat (15) was formerly with Tymbel previously salea executive with a conaultant.

# meet the M

the computer industry and procent at a receptive in a process of Downling Street let were. The Prime Minister base some of Syllein's many as cassful entrepreneum a far reception offers with a far Department of Industry. Department of Industry the Partment of Industry the Partment of Industry the Partment of Industry the Industr

the economy.
Gueets included Energy ricon, chairman of Raci by tronics, Blevs Shirty, duck of F International, Ha Hugh se, chairmen of Luck and Colin Southgets, care of Software Sciences.

Daniel van der Plassie been appointed chalmus opool. He is the dheer CIG. Europool, formed in 1971 on association of computer vice bureaux from 12



Seies director of Piessey Semiconductors, Kan Gradehaw, welcomes the Queen to Piessey's Stitcon Chip stand, which is one of the attractions of the ideal Hame Schibitton at Eoria Court, Landon. The Queen and Prince Philip spent some time inspecting the stond which dome methods of manufacture and applications of the silicon chip.

# Union chief calls for NEWS IN BRIEF technology ministry for IPSS IPSS, the Post of

TO combat what he sees as the failing ability of the Department of Industry to cope with advances in science and technology in this country, ASTMS precident Douglas Hoyle has called for the creation of a new Ministry of Technology. Up to 1970 there was such a Ministry,

istry of Computing.

Hard copy from

colour displays

slides or 8 x 10 Inch prints.

UK start at £7,500.

but after various changes of government its functions are now handled by the DoI.

Hoyle says that a totally separate department la needed devoted to davelopmenta in microelectronica and computers In general, communications technology such as fibre optica and even in acientific research on genetic angineering.

"At the moment government activity is piecemeal," Hoyle \_\_ruster\_scan colour graphics disold Computer Weekly, "It has, for example, dramatically cut back spending on training and retraining, but these oreas are absolutely necessary for the fu-ture. A Ministry of Technology would have to develop a theme which the government and industry could follow."

A Dol spokesman said present departments and procedures for developing technology were Over two years ago (CW, December 15/22, 1977) there was Jaime in UK an unauccassful call by some Junier members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants for o Min-Chess Squad

Weekly's 12-year-old chaseplaying protagé, hee been solacted for the British Junior solacted for the Gritish Junior Squed, a group of 44 players up to the age of 18 from which national teams are picked. HIGH quality hard copy from nations taams are picked. Jame was salected because of his improved porformence over the lost year, which included a placing in the Evening Standard national junior chempionahip.

Joima played for Kent in the under-14 All-England Championship lest weakend.

His eleter, 15-yeor-old Sophio, has been bitten by the chee bug aince being taught to ploy by Joims. Lost week she helped the Kant under-18 team to victory over Surrey. plnys can be generated by the Model 31 colour graphics system announced by Calconip. The Model 31 can produce 35mm

JAIME GORMAN, Computer

The Model 31 was developed in the US by the California firm Dunn Instruments with the Polaroid Cnrp. Calcomp has the exclusive murketing rights to the system outside the US. Prices for the Model 31 in the

which also owns the Globdat Prestel Int. opens

Canadian link

vice, itas been linked to Datapac

In Canado and plans are being Implemented to link it to two more Canndian networks Glob

IPSS will be linked to the

Conadian networks using a

modified form of the X25 proto-

col at first, olthough it Is even-

tually planned to use tha X75

protocol which is being deve-

oped for inter-network links.
The new service is offered by

the Post Office in conjunction

with Telegiobe, Cnnadn's in-

ternatinnal common carrier

dat ond Infoawlich.

PRESTEL · International officiolly opened last week after trials that began last summer (CW, August 30, 1979), but ter-

inlini equipment is still waiting for approval from the Bundespost before it can be attached to the West German telephone

A spokesman for the Bundespost sold there was no reason why approval should not be

#### Arabian access SAUDI ARABIA has gained

dlal-up access to Mark III, the international releprocessing network operated by General Electric Information Services Company from the US, Subject In the approval of the Saint government, subsidiaries of foreign multi-national organisa tions with offices in RIV alle an offered access to the network via 300 logs links to a local Linteau.

Access Data:

distributors for . . .

truining.
The service is hased on Insperial College's CEDAR Prnect (Computers in Education ns Resource) which mitintulus a library of books and reports on the subject, and has on online cutnlogue of these publications' with available CAL puckages. The entalogue is published on

THE Australian government has decided to allow teletext broad-casts, and some will begin soon Local manufacturers are expected to produce ping-in adapters and sultably modified televisions within three to six months. Other systems and developments, including literactive services, may be given field trials by the Postal and Telecommunications Tenerical Telecommunications Dapart-ment and industry.

#### **CAL** inquiry service set up

AN inquiry service on computer-nided and computermanaged learning has been set up at Imperial College, London, to help trachers at all levels in the education system. The Council for Vducational Techtiology has funded by two years the appointment of an information ufficer who will answer inquirles and gather information on all sarts of applications of computers in education and

The newly-appointed infor-inntion officer is Judith Morris. Inquirles should be directed to 01-589 5111 ext 1180 or 1197.

#### **Adam and Tina** go nationwide

ADAM and Tina, the operatorprogrammable systems produced by the Logical Machine Corp, are to be available around the country in a number of new business centres being opened

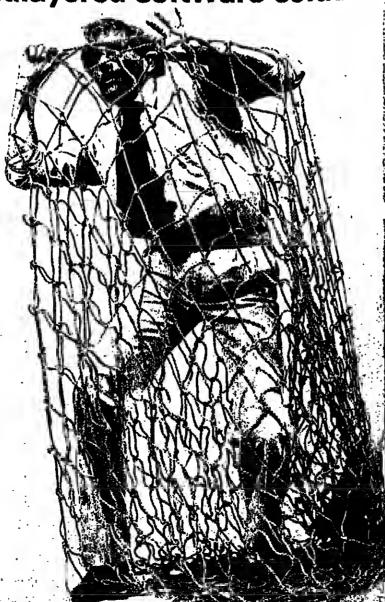
The company already has pentres in Mancheater and Cheltenham, and more are planned for toter this year. In addition to the Lomac systems the centrea will also sell aquipment from National Panasonic Trivactor and Philipa, with other office equipment auch a

Beam is the office equipment division of UAC international Group, which is part of Unit

#### Teletext broadcasts

# Looking at large Evaluate a interactive system DEC system - 10 or 20.

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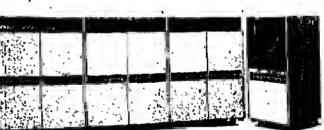
and have you and your programmers in e wrangling tangle. So make sure the large systems of Digital Equipment. No.1.m interactive computing, ere on your shortlist.
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agreting 50 different lengueges. 10PS an efficient shered operating system that reacts productively from the moment you switch on. vised software: user-friendly, guiding and

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wok to install and get up. No competibility problems throrking or terminal choice. Supporting many mails even in low-priced configurations. Easy to, when demand builds up.



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interactivo compuling. Put us on your shortlist. Otherwise, you haven't made a true evaluation Better still, call us. You won't get any promises, spoken

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niumane inent needs Next question: "Can l'El provide a solution?" The answer is Yes, with CATS 800. ICEs unique hardwareassisted information retrieval system. Not only does it provide instant answers to end users on video terminals, but it also frees your DP staff from tedious maintenance programmaing and raduces the load on your mainframe computer

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CHRIS YOUETT EXAMINES THE NEW IDPM SYLLABUS

# Accent on practical side of DP

for explaining a new system to a bunch of confused users? Can you advise on drewing up ahifts for the ops room or drafting recruitment advertisementa for Computer Weekly?

This is the type of topic that the institute of Data Processing Management covers in its new examination syllabus to emphasise its belief in itaelf as the practical institution for the

computer professional.
Formed following the amaigamation of the institute of Data Processing and the Data Processing Management Association in 1978 (CW, April 6, 1978), the institute sees itself as bringing together the managerisi orientation of the DPMA and the educational and professional orientation of the

It has set itself a target of 10,000 new members and, to help with this, the institute has pro-duced a loose-leef booklet for prospective members and atudents which also includes an application form and a reply-

The booklet sets out the prin-cipal objectives of the institute, which are to advance the Interests of the DP professional and its members, to set standards for the professional and to confer recognition upon those practi-

lonera who meet the standards. it has aiready become a preasure group from government level downwards for the nduatry and Its members, tt Is pushing its views hard at the variety of seminars and conerences which are springing up

The Institute publishes occasional reports and partlelpates in the work of private and public committees, study groups and investigational

There are five gradas of mam-barahip full Member, which requiras a minimum of eight years' experience and one year's associate mambership; Associate, which requires a minimum of four years' experlence; Licentlate, which is awarded to applicants with under four years' expariance and with certain approved pro-feasional qualifications; Individual Affiliate, which is avallable to any computer user and others who wish to support the Institute, and Corporate Affiliate, which is available to

any corporata body, auch aslocal authorities and firms, Students registered for the Institute's exams need not be members but, if thay wish to joln, may qualify for an affiliete or professional grade, according

to experience. The examisaet in four parts at Higher National Certificate level. An HNC is accapted as equal to a dagrea by many employera, and uaually covera the first two years of a degree

The minimum level of entry la four GCE O-Levels or their equivalent or an equivalent leval of ability. So there is little ranaon why even s trainee operator or punch girl should not apply.

Many of the senior members of the institute emphasise that the word "managament" in its reople in the industry have some management responsibility and

people or equipment than many standards. While the Institute is sold

traditional managers ara. renily an employment agenci-does take an interest in the Exemptions are available for holders of GCE A-Levela, ONDs, ONCs, degrees, the raging the provision of an development opportunidas National Computing Centre's Baalc Award in Systems Ana-To further this, the inst. Computer Society examination. has had contacts with 1.

Most paople I have talked to in

the institute do not see the BCS

CLUFF: "Exciting time to join . . ."

as a rival, but as a complemen-

tary organisation with a slightly

The syllabus acts out to test

the candidate's knowledge of

rative subjects ond Part I com-

computer technology and busi-

methods and techniques, sche-

duling and timing and control of

systams davelopment; and Part

tV comprises systam dasign

management ond data proces-

Into this ia via head office There is a view in the inc.
that the IDPM should draw; code of conduct for the 'v shoppers" and exclude agency that falls to come; he mark as well as discipate hose who break the code.

recruitment agencles to sa.

an employment service. Er:

Secretary general Tel (: sold "This is an exclinging" ioin and a lot of things (... happen during the ment Now that most of the 11/7

problems have been res. the provinces have been it raged to form new but: In the Midlands, hower co-ordinating committee set up under the chalme; of consultant Jim Ross w. aim of establishing a sir.

brunches in the region. Ross, who is also a Chief: Officer with the Royal A. Reserve, quickly moulded a volunteers into a fighting it that would take the gospel to the members.

both technical and administ-His view of devolving N tn the branches has widey prisea principles of accounts, support among the commit who are keen not to see. ness knowledge and office Institute go the way of me others in the UK of become! London club. Ross is also kee equipment; Part II comprises basic statistics, data processing tachniques and business comsee people from all walks d. munications; Part III comprisea aystems analysis, programming

Tha two biggest probit facing the embryo branch finding venues with a carp and fitting speakers in light



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ngle and multi je	mmai syatems				Medic
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ta logging			,		Mullit
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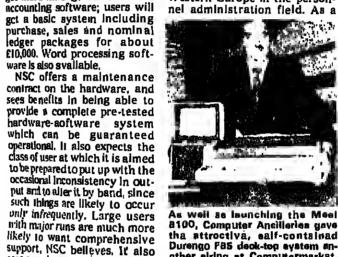
#### Selling software at an exhibition COMPUTERMARKET

personnel "problem solver."

exhibition? Three companies which have found exhibition stands beneficial are Peterborough Data, Q-Pac Services and Northern Software Consultants, NSC. All took space at the small but busy Computermarket in Birmingham last week, and all were broadly satisfied with the results, although NSC was exhibiting hardware for the

first lime.
"We hoven't been rushed off our feet with inquirles," sald Peterborough Data's Joe ranks, "but we are regulars at Computermarket, and regard It as an effective way of shnwing the flag. We tend to meet our existing customers, and other visitors, although showing only a passing interest to start with, often turn into useful pros-

Formed 17 years ago, and atlli a private company under un-changed ownership, Peterborough Data Processing Services claims to be number one in Western Europe in the personnel administration field. As a



tha attroctiva, ealf-contained
Durengo F85 deok-top eyatem another eiring at Computermarkat.
Seen here in the capable hands of
Michel Fessins, seles director of
Durengo's French distributor
Machines Business Systems the sees a packaged approach as the nea Buainesa Systems, tha NSC has sppeared at exhibi-llons for several years, and reported that there had been a F85 le driven by the Intal 8088 microprocessor and le priced et £8,250 for the configuration ehown, which comprises 84K. bytee of main memory, two 500K-byte floppy disc units, 165 chps printer and full ecrean. inquiries now that it was showing a hardware product.

#### ...AND AN EXOTIC TOUCH

only meens of serving the bot-tom end of tha market cost-

big increase in the number of

TRAVELLING

SHOW TO

BIRMINGHAM

Package

approach

snts of Manchester has entered

the hardware business with s

system built around the

Cromemco Z80-based processor.

It comes with Beehive terminal.

Centronics printer and two

Croniemco floppy disc units, and NSC chose Computermarket in

Birmingham at which to launch

Purpose of the machine is to

get more mlleage out of NSC's

ware is also svallable.

#### Indian firm seeks **UK** distributors

AN Indian company, Advanced An example of the kind of Data Systema of Hyderabad business Advanced Data Systems ast week to seek UK distribufor UK partners to take it into the microcomputer business.

who can provida ua technical know-how for the manufacture of microprocessor systems for industrial and commercial applications," the com-pany's representative, V. Prasad told Computer Weekly.
"We are looking for a product
in the £100 to £1,000 prica range

which we could manufacture at low cost in India for a partner, and envisage selling some in the indian market ond signing a buy-back agreement with the anner for the rest. To give an example, we can

do power supplies to tha same quality as Hawlatt-Packard for half the price, and thare la rapidly growing potential in the indisa industrial and commercial markets. We already build nanufacturers, including ECIL in Hyderabad which manufacturers, including ECIL in the indian TDC-316 minicomputer.

look space at the Industrial india trade fair in Birmingham india Rallways Rallways are lors for its power supplies and digital instruments of the supplies and in India, but manual methods digital instrumenta and to look for UK partners to take it into for people seaking reservations, sinca overnight sleeper is the We are looking for a partner standard mode of long-distance "Indian Railways is looking

for a microcomputer which could be installed at each raservations counter to speed up the process. After a pilot and instalations all ovar tha country, the eventual aim would be to link them to a central reservations computer." The present system causes a

serious problem when people want to make a weakend trip to another city: it ia pftén necessary to make a raservation a week in advance, but the return reservation can only be made from the city of daparture. Advanced Data Systema la a private company formed three years ago, and is looking for a

turnover of about £350,000 this year. Held at the National Exhibition Centre, Industrial India was a showcase for light engineering

companies.

obliged to reveal turnover and profit figures, but does annual business in excess of £2 million employs t30 people, over 100 of them DP professionals taken on complete service, including installing n turnkey system if reafter a minimum of three years' quired, it also provides training experience, and has over 400 and nims to keep customers up customers for its systems, to date on fiscal and pension several of thein bureaux serving legislation. It is big enough to have its own ICL 2904 and IBM 370/115,

the latter to be replaced with a 4331 in June. It also has an IBM Office System 6 word processor for preporing documentation, its Januory 31) three principal products are The Post Office's atlernative is Unipay, Unipension and Uni-

10 offer a payroll system on a personnel, deacribed respec-Casu Super C milcrocomputer, tively as the payroli, pension and and Peterborough Data is considering its approach for the The soft ware is written in tBM small computer market. assembler or ICL Plan, hut there "We have gone down into are new versions for tCL VME/B minicomputers, but a microand VME/K users written in

computer system would be dif flcult to cost-justify, because we Cobol; the VME/B version is In want to provide all our users use, and the VME/K version is with a full service," said Joe under test. Univac and Data General versiona are also Franks.

About 20 bureaux use the Unipay payroll service, but it is being dropped by the Post Office's National Data Processing Service on the grounds that 100 many others offer it (CW,

floppy discs are double-sided double-density drives from Persci, storing 2.7 megabyes per The basic system costs £9.700. with application software extra a sulte of accounting programs would add about £5,000 to the price. CAL is also specialising in software for Insurance brokers making the Mael 5100 particu-

> Languages available are unusually comprehensive Com-

firms and partnershipa.

larly attractive for small broking

Birmingham last week.

The 5100 is a repackaged low-cost desk-top version of the

Mael 5300, and since It is built

around the same General

Automation GA 16/220 proces-

sor, it packs a lot of nunch fo

such n small system. Packoging is the same ns for the Mael 2000

with built-in display, keyboard and two or four floppy disc

drives in the desk-top unit

Printers running at 120 or 180

chos are offered with it, and the

LATEST addition to Computer Ancillaries Mael product line in writes all its software, Commer cial Basic, Fortran IV, Cobol the UK is the Mael 5100, lauuched at Computermarket in Pascal, and an RPG It claimed to be 100% IBM-compatible.

#### When and where

COMPUTERMARKET lef Birmingham for Monchester this week — It has its lest day today (Thursday) at Naw Century Hell, Corporation Street. Next week it is in Glesgow at the Albeny Hotol, Bothwall Street, from March 18 to 20 and it ends up at London's West Centra Hotai, Litis Road, SW8, on March 25 to 27.

A competition to find the computer advertisement of the year is being held with the oxhibition. The proceeds are going to the British Computer Society's Specialist Group for the Disebled. Judging will be in London on March 25.



Today the Telephone Rantels Private Digital Exchange (TR PDX) is providing e telephone communications. aystem, with many operational and cost advantages, for a number of 'household name' UK organisations. (SPC), Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) and Time Division Multiplexing (TDM). It is the first British built digital exchange to bring all these principles together and the first to obtain Post Office approval.

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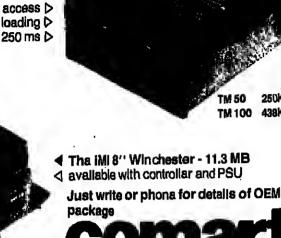
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# OEM Disk Drives Marketing of fast page printer not tough enough

faature of exhibitions and the ment in terma of costa. subject of a substantiel profor about two years now. With a view to seeing how far the proclaimed potential is being realised, I visited the first UK user of the Honeywell Page Printing System, EMI at Hayes, Midd-

Surprisingly, the meanage from EMI is that the product is being very much undersold not abmething that the computer industry la accused of very often. According to group computer services general manager Roy Gray, "The marketing done by the monufacturers is nothing like as sharp as it should ba."

"A lot of comperisons are made batween the cost of a page printar and a line printer, end between the reletiva costs of paper. But the manufacturers are looking at the equipment with blinkers on; they're ignoring the labour end overmention the saving on expensive

operational services manager, paper, goes further. "In the past 10". Both types of system operate yeara there's not been much progress, but this system. represents a revolution on the output side. People are not generally awore of the poten-

have e point: trying to sell onything on the baals of its potential

• PDP 11/03 Systems

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volume orders.

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And EMI has a atory motional and marketing affort to tell here too. in round cash, Gray estimates the net benefit as "In exceas of £50,000 a year." Thia comes about from the saving of six people (one operator on each of three aldfts and three paper-handling staff) and of two line printers, plus a variety of other smaller savings.

Savings of this kind are well worth making, but Gray feels they are insignificant in comtimely services it enables him to offer his users. As meny of these stem from the basic design of the system, it is useful to give some detells of the PPS.

The Honeywell PPS is an elactrostatic matrix printer; as such it differs from other fast printers like the IBM 3E00 and the Siemens ND2, which have a printing method similer tn xerography but employing a laser to expnse the photosentime saving benefits, not to sitive film. The use of electrostatic technology is cheapar, but means that the PPS requires His colleague, Jim de Voll, special electrically sensitive

at similar speeds, which vnry occording to a number of factors. Becouse of this, IBM does not quote ruted speeds. Honeywell sells three versions of the PPS: EMI has the medium-apace one, which is rnted at 12,000 ipm

or 140 pages n minute. An important uspect of the is notoriously difficult, if only PPS is its forms-handling because DP managers have to capabilities. The system uses n PPS is its forms-handling

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LA 34 LA 180

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dalsywheel printers.

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VT 100

Wilkes Computing

or decollating. The paper his and multiple copies of the r report are atacked in dilles; hoppers under saftwere car.

EMI produces its reports: size. The fact that reports duced on the system att: same size as those product conventional typing profehas proved important in ning user acceptance, r. paving the way to new 4;:

For exemple, EMI execare turning more and me the printing system for the duction of board reports: sales and marketing lower Accountants are using it!

These applications pendit. considerable saving in type: time, as well as a reduction? the time it takes to bring a to before the board. They is make for savings on the plan opying bill. It costs around to produce a photo red. copy of a report, compared? Ip on the PPS.

Another new application the production of teleph. directories which in F. offices, ore notoriously of date the moment they and duced. The PPS can not c

phoneusno

and ask for Sales

Desk. Supplies are

LSI Modules ready for delivery.

DL115 DB117 TEV11

limited.

KD11

KEV11.

MRV11

DLV11

DZV11

RXV21

terminals we deliver

#### NICHOLAS ENTICKNAP LOOKS AT HONEYWELL'S HIGH SPEED PPS SYSTEM IN ACTION

High apeed pege printers heve bean the eter turn of meny a computer axhibition over the last two years end some usara heve taken the niunge in installing one.

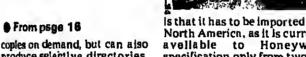
Nicholas Enticknap, ee part of Computer Waekly's Systams in Action series, reports on EMI, the first UK user of Honeywall's Page Printing System (PPS).

Surprisingly, EMI said that the system was being undersold. Many menufacturers appear to be judging such systams on e etraight cost comperison with line printers and the coat of pspar, end ignoring the hidden banefits of cutting labour costs and meinta-

Enticknsp found that, now EMI has got the system working afficiently, it is in e position to offer time on it to customers outside the

From page 16

to more savings.



produce selective directories. covering for example all the people in one building; this leads Telephone directories are

usually produced by internel printing departments, and Roy suppliers. Gray feels that mony other such tasks will eventually be taken over by the PPS. The quality of the output, and

in particular the system's ability to print lower as well as unner case, also permits the development of word processing opplications. Gray quotes as an example of the applications he would like to develop the printing of personslised payment overdue letters, which gives precise details of payments history and the amount outstanding. Another example is personalised mailing shots, which could refer, for example,

tomer had made. Cost savings not yet covered include an important saving on pre-printed stationery. This la not required for the PPS, as the same effect can be achieved with a forms overlay. .

to specific purchases the cus-

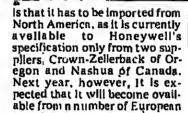
With conventional line printers, EMI was holding stocks worth about £100,000, so the saving here is in the region of £15,000 alone on interest

Apart from the cost, it saves the worry that a supplier might let you down with a late deery, or that you don't have there is also a hidden saving in that, in the nature of thinga, a lot. of pre-printed atationery tends to get thrown away because of PPS produced two million pages. organisational changes.
EMI installed the PPS in

ovember 1878 when, as menin the UK. A three-month deveopment period followed, during which EMI was ensuring that the system was both reliable and maintainable, and Hoheywell's engineers were getting used to

It was expected that the special puper might be a source of problems, but this fear proved in be unfounded. Current ex-Perience is that one roll in a housand is slightly auspect, which is a better average than three-part paper gives. This is partly because the

company takes all dua pracau-tions. The rolls of paper are removed from the store to the removed from the store to the computer room at least 48 hours before they are due to be used; in mobably unnecessarily, as the slationery store is itself aironditioned but EMI nonetheess makes a point of doing it.
The main snag with the paper



The paper handling equipment has been similarly satisfactory; only teething trnubles were experienced, due to a couple of minor technical problems which have since been eliminated.

Another potential worry was the serviceability of the PPS. To check on this, Gray mede in-quiries in the US, which showed that the results the ploneer Amarican users had achieved were guite satisfactory. Overall availability has in fact

exceeded EMI's expectations Gray says that aithough MTBF is a meaningful measure, the best way of estimating this is in terms of how niten a fault recurs before it is finally cured. "Initially there were many -

this was because the engineers hadn't got to know the aystem, and therefore often falled to recognise when it was necessary to put in a replocement part. But now we go a couple of months without a fault."

This reliability was put firmly to the test in August, when for n variety of reasona the workload was exceptionally high. Just how high can be seen from the figures - EMI'a original plan ufficient stock to do a re-run. of 1.25 million pages a month over a two-year period, but in August, only six months after

Another indication is that, as part of a general mova by EMI lianed, it was the first of its type into the bureau business with e company is now merketing e PPS service to customers outaide the group.

For the future, EMI'a sights are set on an upgrade to the PPS 2 aystem, which is more advanced in several respects.

The most important of these is that Instead of the nonprogrammable minicomputar controlling the PPS 1, it is equipped with a 6/43 mini, run-ning under GCOS 6 Mod 400, which can be programmed by the user. This allows much more scope with the use of differenttypefaces on the same docu-

The current system has a list price rental of about £6,000 a month, including options and maintenance. To this must be added e metered footage charge for paper use, which starts at \$1,75 per thousand feet for the first half million feat.



A PPS feature attractive to EMI managers is the ebility to produce normal A4 strad reports, Our picture shows Roy Gray (right) examining come

HP introduces the Matrix Machine.

If you've been thinking that only 0.32-bit are bondled automatically, so computer can bundle your matrix intensive you can do large analy my dicajobs, think about this; with HP's new Vector tions like image processing Instruction Set (VIS), the HP 1000 dogs 3 dimensional graphics, and matrix inversions at speeds comparable to a simulations. Without writing 32 bit mini. At less than one-third the price. any new software.

The HP (100) F-series computer has always been ideal for complex scientific calculations involving floating point arithmetic, trigonnmetric and logarithmic functions, and other computation-intensive problems. Now it's even better,

With VtS, you can perform vector and matrix arithmetic at speeds you wouldn't have thought possible on a Ifi-bit computer. A single vector addition atatement like CALL VADD, for example, replaces a FORTRAN DO loon to execute some

applications up to 10 times faster. And by taking advantage of the HP nddresa extremely lurge data sets

lex functions - all at hardware apeed.

\*Prices correct at time of going to Press.

performance.

Even if you're just crunching numbers and not matrices, the F-series has what it takes to handle the most sophisticated A hardware-implemented Floatin

Speed plus

accuracy equals

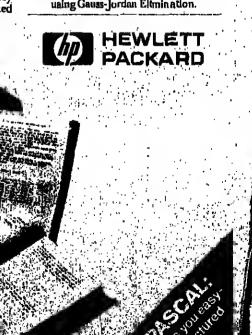
Point Processor gives you three levels of floating point precisinn for up to 17 algorificant digits of accuracy. And separate polynnmial and scientific instruction sets make . It easy to do highly accurate calculations involving a wide range of trigonometric, logarithmic and other comp-

Crunch a matrix today. Invest a little time to find nut how the ttP t000 sixteen-bit computer makes light work of matrix nrithmetic, At .£27,500; It inight save you from investing more money than you need to for your sophisticated

For complete information about the VtS-enhanced HP 1000 ring your nearest Herrlett-Packard office or contact Hewlett-

Packard Ltd., King Street Lone, Winnersh. Wokingham, Berks., RGH 5AR. Telephone: Wokingham (0734) 78477-1. Matrix Inversion Times\*\* 14P ROR VIS-enhanced F-series 1.8 sec

tombojei 1.5 sec 100 v 100 12,3 sec 200x20tl III5 sec !U sec 720 sec (iOt) sec \*\* Benchmark method - Matrix inversion uaing Gauss-Jordan Eltmination.





10400 On Facility Standard Section and

#### KEITH JONES LOOKS AT THE NORWEGIAN DP FLAGSHIP

# Ad hoc marketing plan pays off at Norsk Data

the Norwegian computer inbacklog at more than £10 million ut the end of 1979 the company would be considered significant even in the UK

In Norwoy Nursk Dato's relative importance is almost as great as ICL's la this country.

still small enough for the mor-

determined by the interests ond

abilities of individual captoyees

Nevertheless Norsk Data is

No overall marketing strategy

appears to have been drawn up yct to attack specific msrket areas and the most significant development seems to be the build-up of commercial type customers in Scandinavia using the Norak Dats transaction proing system, TPS, or typesetting software. Nordtext.

Moreover, Norsk Data claims that its Sibas database system la the most common system of Its

and by opportunities as they kind now in use in Norway and

In the UK the nowerful Interactive capsbilltles-of Norak Dsta's Nord machines, with the wide variety of languages that can be supported by the ver-satile Sintran III/VS operating system, are starting to win uni-

The first major contract was placed in February by Reading University for kit that included two 16-bit Nord-100 minicomputers and one 32-bit Nord-500. The 100 and powerful 500 were

But Norsk Data's biggest con-tract by far in the UK to date was placed last year by the Joint European Torua nuclear fuaion project at Culham Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

It was added to the list of rather exotic and diverse scientific and technical type applica-tions for Nord machines that characterised the history of Norak Data throughout the

substantial new contracta in an area as limited as nuclear research are obviously not very great, and Norsk Data also sees no great potential in aircraft simulation, an application with which it became involved through an \$8 million contract placed two years ago by the US

by Singer-Link to control simulatora that Singer is building for the F16 fighter, but Norsk Data admits that its success against US based competitors, notably Systema Engineering Laboratories, was helped by the US government's dealre to offset

alone is buying 70. Nevertheless, Norsk Data still had to "sell" is machinea to Singer-Link's own programworking with what, to them, was an obscure European com-

order gave Norsk Data a foothold in the US market, an achievement seen by the com-pany as helping its business in Europe. There are now Norsk Data offices in Buston and In Dallas, Texas, the latter being the office handling the Singer-

Because of Norway's N Norsk Data's atrstegy is looking its subsidiaries to develop art

best known application area to date for Nord Minicomputers. From an original 24 Nord-10

> the most important newlests provided by Sintran IV with the support of genuine 6

linked and files on all of t-Nord machines are to be used accessed by an application; gram running on any de Norsk Data does not exper announce significant changes to its hardwar'

the cost to Europa of buying large numbers of Fl6s. Norway With the 32-bit Nord-Norsk Data already has

Croxleybusiness forms

listing papers

pusiness systems

John Dickinson

Whan precision is paramount call on John Dollarson. Stationary, part of a major group with unimatched result Experience, expertise, production capacity, distribution network—in every field, the leaders. The names say at Tha ranga doas it all.

Pleasa send ma the new Croxley and Holdies With

(ORC). A member of the Dirichton Robinson County

machine rated at more than !million instructions per sex It provides up to et megawords of main mec. and comes with a cache enter able up to 64K-bytes. The I machines sharing the 15

Norsk Data says that it sold 30 Nord-500s to the that deliveries will begin 3.

# \* DESK TOP DATA ENTRY TERMINAL. \* 3740-COMPATIBLE.\* PROGRAMMABLE. \* IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.

# There's only one place to get it and funnily enough it's not IBM.

IBM don't have an intelligent data entry terminal offering Business BASIC

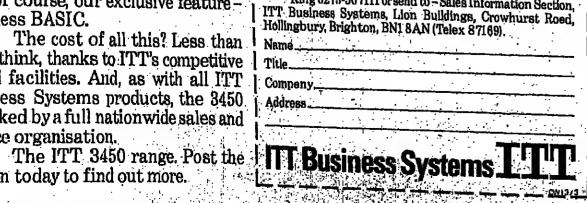
But ITT do. In fact we've got a range of intelligent data entry terminals including fully 3740-compatible single and dual units. So not only can you input high volume data, but the ITT 3450 can also be used for your local processing requirements.

What's more, they're ready for immediate delivery. You don't have to wait to take advantage of all the improvements and extra features that the ITT 3450 includes: 64K RAM, LSI technology reliability r and, of course, our exclusive feature-Ring 0273-507111 or send to - Sales Information Section,

Business BASIC.

The cost of all this? Less than you'd think, thanks to ITT's competitive | Title\_ rental facilities. And, as with all ITT Business Systems products, the 3450 is backed by a full nationwide sales and service organisation.

coupon today to find out more.





Norsk Data assa little future in stroraft applications, it did win an 68 million contract two years spite firm Singar-Link to supply Nord machines that will control simulators for the General Dysenic W

In the senae of being a nucleor project, JET la loosely related to superseded all earlier Nord he synchrotron project at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Raaearch at Geneva, which is probably the

> minicomputers ordered about seven years ago, the line-up of Norsk Data kit at CERN has grown to a formidable 120

The chances of picking up

puter monufacturer.
Winning the Singer-Link Link contract.

#### cations autonomously to be local requirements and to be agreements with local subc for the Sintran III operal ystem. It will be called, pres

ably, Sintran IV and willia porate Sintran III as a subtem, so achieving upwarks Norsk Data hopes that over

ment by offering them a half per cent better rate of Interest. ICIM now has the precious government-Issued manufacturing licences without which nothing can be done. It is five years; 100 600-card-perminute card readers a year: 100 800-line-per-minute printers a year, and 200 magnetic tape

ICLIs"in India" no longer. In its

national Computera Indian

Manufacture, ICIM, in which

Shares in ICIM ore widely

held by Indian investors, and are

quoted on the Bombay stock

exchange. In order to finance

the manufacture of 2904s at

Poons, the company went to the

market last August to issue

1,750,000 new shares at 10

rupees aplece — ICL subacribed

scribed. Share issues have now

raised in total nearly £1.6 million

towards the cost of 2904 pro-

duction.

Needing to raise further

capital, the company is floating two- and three-year loans, and

pro rata to keep its stake at 40%, and the issue was fully sub-

The first slx 2904s are due to be completed before the end of the financial year in September. The first machine was due to and that after refurbishing. there will be a further five years of life in the machines. The machine to be built is being called the 2904/50, and the specifications look comparable to those of ICL 2904s, although memory capocity looks rather

as Indio, the 190i As which are

course not be scrapped. They

will be refurbished and are likely

to be offered to customers who ordered 1901As but were disap-

pointed when manufacture ceased after the 32nd machine

The estimate is that ICIM will

take back two or three a year,

had been built.

ICIM emerges from the

success of the programme. Some two years ogo, ICIM

picked up several orders for

larger 2900s, but little has hap-

nened since then. The lorgest

machine is a 2960, funded in part

by UK government ald, at the

Indian Institute of Technology

in Delhi. The National Dairy

Development Board, which

1973, now has a 2950 and a 2903.

wanted a 1904S as long ago as

while Kirloskar Oil Engines,

Mafatlal textile house, and the

Signal Corps of the Indisn Army each have 2950s, and Bharat Heavy Electricals has two. Most

promising current prospect is

Life Insurance Corp of India,

which Is considering a 2956/10.

"ICL muddling through to a

chrysalis of ICL India

INDIAN SCENE

The standard configuration being offered to Indian customers includes the central pro-cessor with 48K-words of main memory and 16K-words of microcode store; a console VDU, one to four direct data entry CRT stations, 300-card-perminute reader, 600-lpm printer, one to four EDS 60 60-megabyte disc drives and a tape unit. On the indian market, that is a medium to large muchine.

The 1901A manufacturing programme was hardly a success, since It took much longer than planned to build 32 of the 56 machines licensed, What reason is there to suppose that the 2904 programme will be any more



The computer room of the Netional Deiry Davelopment Board, aquipped with an ICL 1901A. Seed in the north-western states of Gujarat, the board is now developing systems on a 2950 end a 2803, together worth £800.000. Starting off running under DME, the board plans to convert to VME/K in the future, and is developing a system to record and compere milk yields and other statistics on deiry herds throughout indite (CW, Juna 1, 1978).

but observers believe that it is not likely to be ready before

Next year's plan calls for another 18 to be built, and orders for the first 12 hove already been

The first machine is destined for Godrej and Boyce, manufacturer of typewriters, safes and office furniture. Like most of the carly customers, the company la an ICIM user, with one of the 32 indian-built 1901As.

In a country where computers are much harder to acquire than gold, it seems positively aready.

gold, it seems positively greedy for the Calcutta Electric Supply Company. CESC, to demand twn 2904s; its first will be the second machine bulit. Other customers include Bharat Heavy Electricois in Bhopal, Binny'a textiles in Madras, and tha Shaw Wallace trading company. Wallace trading company, also in Madras, all of which are

1901A users.
New and first-time users include Colgate Palmoilve in Bombay DPS India in Calcutta, and a new company. Christine bureau services. Aureau services, ;

in a country as starved of and as hungry for computer power.

There are, In fact, aeveral renaons. The 1901A programma was bedevilled by problems in getting licences to import the necessary components and manufacture, and licences were generally granted for only four which manufacture was held up until new licences were issued.

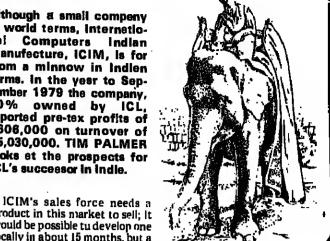
The naw government is showing signa of being much more accommodating to big business, and getting imports Into the country is not as difficult as it used to be; tha first Wang VS computer in India arrived in February, and took two days to clear customs. Two months has often been par in the

Secondly, the new machines are being built at ICIM's own factory in Poona, by contrast to the 1901Aa, which were built in Bangalore'by a government-owned company, Bharet Elec-tronics Limited, BEL, under ICL

The third factor is that although it now has only 40% of the company, ICL in London is perversely taking a much keeher interest in ICIM's affairs than in the past, and is committed to the

#### Report by Tim Palmer

in world terms, internetio nei Computers Indian Manufecture, ICIM, is for terms. In the year to September 1979 the company 40% owned by ICL, reported pre-tex profits of £606,000 on turnover of £5,030,000. TIM PALMER looks at the prospects for ICL's succeesor in Indie.



product in this market to sell; it would be possible tu develop one locally in about 15 months, but a ready-made product ideal for the market already exists in the ICL 1500, and the company should be banging on the door of the Electronics Commission for permiasion to build a version in India.

ICL itself should be making more use of the computer resources in India by getting ICIM to do software development and conversion for use in the rest of the world. Computers may be imported into Indis provided the importer guarantees to export software to twice the value of the computer This would allow ICIM to huy

a medium-scale machine or several 2903a and System Tens from ICL for use as hureau machines. The Indian computer market is dominated by servicea companies, and the fact that ICIM is not a major contender in this market (as IBM definitely was) loses the company introductions to potential future customers fur in-house computers.



first in-depth look at the Indian

company (June 27, 1974), and to

aome extent that brighter future

But for a company of its size, ICIM is seriously under-

employed, and there are three

distinct opportunities which

record systems installed in India

and ICL, all over-ripe for

replacement by very amail com-

puters. Thrusting companies

new to the computer business like DCM and Hindustan Com-

puters are doing very well out of

replacing these with their own

mini and microcomputers,

There are thousands of unit

appear to have been ignored.

can ba soid to have arrived.

for interactive distributed-network main-frame communications

imulianeous interrogation of amota main-frame and local mini Need to hold most filee centrally yet store some data locally? Then for IBM or ICL main-frame users CMC'e 3270 or:

REALITY ROYALE, made at Hemel Hempstead by Computer Machinery Company (est: 1969), is a mini-computer based, data base management/business information eystem particularly useful when a mass of facte and figures requiree frequent; speedy access. And it is eepecially clever at anewering unscheduled enquiries and analyses needing promot attention.

REALITY ROYALE'S much applicated ENGLISH enquiry language enables anyone to use the eystem wherever they work, it is also avallable with proven eoftware packages - Bueiness Control Programs (BCP) and Manufacturing Control System (MCS) - Ideal for the control of all buelness and production functions.

BCP/MC8 pkgs

No-nonsense way to

#### **COMPANY NEWS**

#### Plessey makes up its lost ground

IT looks as if Plessey has turned 1978 period, and Plessey says the corner at last, and - now that stronger sales and better that Racal is preoccupied with margins all contributed. Turning Decca around — Plessey could once again be regarded as

Third quarter figurea reported last year. Plessey sold its onelast week show that Plessey has quarter atake in ICL, so cutting made up the ground lost itself off from a pre-tax profit through strikes in its first half, contribution of some £10 million and finance director Peter Mar- Later in the year It diaposed of shall is booking for profita for the full year better than analysts' nverage forecast of £60 million.

Prc-lax profit in the October to December quarter stormed ahead 63% to £[6.026 million on turnover up 19% at £191.5 mil- December, electrical systema lion compared with the same and equipment represented 29% period in 1978. The first half was of sales; followed by 22.9% for so strike-hit that the excellent third quarter performance muved profits for the ninc months nitead only 7.6% to £35.4

Operating profit for the nine and engineering division. The months was £10 million, which is remaining 1.2% comes from the a 31% improvement over the now divested Garrard business.

16

Entry is restricted to those over 18 with an

interest in computers: Further preregistration forms are available from .... Couching ad Ltd. 42 Great Windmill Street. London WIV-7PA.

Two significant disposals, onc beneficial and one detrimental, took place last year: in January its loss-making Garrard record changer business, effectively taking it out of the consumer electrical ond electronic

During the nine months to main telephone exchange and transmission equipment, 16% for office dato and control aysiems 15.9% for components, and 15% for the hydraulics, acrospace

#### a worry for Racal planners

HIGHER then expected losses at Decca for the year to the and of this month are cause for con-

while the company's takeover of Decca hee been agreed, shareholders in Decca heve about four weaks to decids whether to take Recei akaroa or the cash aits mative The shares are a batter bat thas cash so long as Racal shares stay eigstificantly above the 200 pence mark, but the forecast pence mark, but the forecast that Dacca losses would be nearer £10 millios then the previously anticipated £6 million caused e dip in the Racei shero price, and any more bed news could leave the company with an avalenche of Dacca holders opting for cash rather than

mper. Tkis in turn would daplets Recei's reserves just when it needs to invest in bringing Decca back to profitability.

# Decca losses Kode says 1979 strike hit profits

its pre-tax profit for 1979 would have been about £200,000 higher if its manufacturing operations had not been affected by last year's engineering strike. Profits were elso hit by a stock write-off. The pre-tax profit figure for 1979 was £1.25 million, no higher then in 1971. while turnover increased 13% to £8.5 million.

As in 1978, half the group's total turnover was accounted for by Kode Ltd and Kode Services, the latter being the maintenance operation for Kode equipment. The two firms form the capital goods division of Kode International.

The main product sold by

Kode Ltd these days is the XL/ 40 multi-terminal key-to-disc ystem built in the US by Pertec. The Datavet single station data entry disploy terminal, designed by Kode itself, is no longer being built in volume, while a lot of punched card and paper tape equipment in Kode's inventories has been written off. It used to represent the main side of Kode's business. Pertec has just been token COMMENT

over by Triumph-Adler of West Germany which already sells the XL/40 on the Continent. But Kode says that it has been assured by Trlumph-Adler that its agreement with Pertec will not be affected in any way by the takeover. However, the move over to

XL/40 marketing and the decline of other products has rowers should remember that reduced the need for manufacturing personnel at Kode's factory at Caine, Wiltshire, and 20 out of the 320 workforce there have been made redundant. Kode does not expect to have to make any more redundancies.

A lot of the staff at Caine work for another Kode International firm, Kam Circuits, which builds PC boards. Kam is part of the components division of Kode international along with Moore Reed, of Andover, which

employs about 250 people and builda military equipment. Total dividend paid by Kode International for 1979 was 0.58p net per share.

Kode International prices are shown in the CW shares table.

#### Dicoli sales centre

**DICOLL** Electronics announces that It is opening a sales and service centre at Chorley, Lnncs, Dicoll specialisea in building microcomputer systems based on the Digital Equipment CSI-11 and has just acquired a second factory with a floor area of 12,000 square feet near ita existing plant at Basingstoke, \$4.67 million on lumoyer \$1.000 for the minimaker. From the minimaker. From

#### Medcomp figures to cover the North of England. Scotland and Northern Ireland. hnve been reported by Mod.

comp. Modular Computer Systems of Fort Lauderdale 11.3% at \$71.8 million.

#### **CW SHARES TABLE**

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MANY home owners are no dook feeling the pinch as a result of mortgage rates around the lik merk. But these privileged by dustry is having to pay shout 22% for its overdrefts.

One of the results of this is the firms ere having to cut sowt a stocks. This has a spiniling wild end in the medium term will site. unam ployment from which some, not even white-coller staff, wilk

Interests if the pundits of white

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dole is not poying taxes and card buy the products of light at

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exempt.
The current overdreft ster al. THIS book is an edited colleclead meny to suggest that not cuts must be made in public not tion of notes prepared for a university course in machine strucditure - If one believes in the De tures using stand alone Digital pel eccording to Milton Friedrin ft is ebout time both but Equipment PDP-11s for "hands-

on" experience. benches recognised that then in The student is assumed to edventages and disadvantees the three main achoos of score have some previous high level language experience and to have thought: monetarism, fiscalisms: Keynes, and used the best partie access to the manufacturer's each to run the nation's finance. It would also be in this count

processor handbook and assembler manual In the first five chapters, the author aims to give enough information to permit the student

Machina and assembly languaga programming of the PDP-11, by Arthur Gill. 176 pp. El 1.65.

Prontice-Hall International

(CW), 66 Wood Lana End.

Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Tel:

0442 58531.

to run simple programs. An adequate treotment of number system conversion is followed by a very basic descrip-tion of the PDP-I1 architecture, although very little information

is actually provided; the addressing of peripheral registers and the byte addressing scheme are mentioned but not properly ex-The lext also draws upon the next chapter, which deals adequately with 2's complement

addition and subtraction, Ascii and parity. Floating point representation is briefly described and the subject is excluded from the rest of the book, The chapter dealing with instructions and addressing modes is distinctly sketchy: the use of

programs which always work

Designing programs

theory and practice, by R. C.
Linger, H. D. Mills and B. 1.
Witt 402 Witt. 402 pp. £15.50. Addison
Wesley Publishing Co Ltd
(CW), 11 Hills Place, London,
WI Televisian and B. I.
Chapter 3 describes process
dealgn language, a programming language-like way of
writing down the dasign of a

program. Chapter 4 discusses struc-DO you want to be able to design tured programs - what the correctly? And do you want to be able to show, convincingly, lhat they are correct, so that you By this reader is expended to the state of the state term means and what the characteristics of atructured pro-

can shake off that worrying sus-picken that there is some condi-By this atage the diligent reader is equipped to read a protion, some pattern of data which gram, reatructura lt lf neaessary you forget to test? If you do, and and annotate the program text with logical commantary de-

you are prepared to work a bit scribing its behaviour.

Chapter 5 shows this process

Chapter 5 shows this process toleant the secrets, read on!

This book is aimed at proline dissatisfied with traditional banhazerd makes to be a controlled by the secrets and the secrets are dissatisfied with traditional banhazerd makes to be a controlled by the secrets are dissatisfied with traditional banhazerd makes to be a controlled by the secrets are distanced by the secret by baphazard programming tech-niques and who want to know how to design programa which logical commentary into formal verification: techniques for pro-

ving program correctness. Finally, Chapter 7 deals with As such it is both practical and writing structured programs; As such it is both practical and self-contained, asking it is needed if the program is to be and a willingness to study.

The book contains seven the chapters. Chapter I is an intro-chapter and Chapter 2 provides

As such it is both practical and writing structured programs; in pw that the reader knows what is needed if the program is to be reliable and provably correct. The chapter ends with three decided case studies:

MARTYN THOMAS

#### BOOKS

#### Readable version of Fortran 77

Van Nosirand Reinhold Co Ltd (CW). Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham, Berkshire, Tel: 0734 789456.

FORTRAN is among the most venerable of computer languages, dating from IBM's first release of a Fortran compiler in 1957.

Despite Its many deficiencies compared with newer languages, it remains in widc-spread use and will probably continue to do so, since Fortran compllers are widely available and there must be a gigantic worldwide Investment in Fortran programs and pro-

Of course, the specification of Fortran has modest telephone directory. been continually enhanced, and Fortran 77 is the latest of the official versions of the

ompared with eurlier versions, it contains a number of extensions but also several

Standard are presented in a rendable, 200 unfortunate restrictions that make it hard to enaure that programs written in earlier versions of the language constitute valid Fortran 77 programa. This is an Important consideration in developing portable soft-

ware Fortran programs.
The Fortran 77 Standard itself, like many. language standarda, is a vast und unreadable document; this one is about as big as a

Enough information

sing, and the nature of relative

addressing and branch instruc-

tiona, are explained inauf-

ficiantly clearly for the novice.

The JMP Instruction is barely

mentioned, and the various

NOOP instructions are treated

very briefly and without expla-

nation of their microcoded na-

language which completes the

The second part of the book

introductory part of the book is

describes "more advanced"

techniques and hardware fea-

of machine features is well pre-

sented and clear, including de-

tails of carry, overflow, and

multiple precision; TST, CMP

and conditional branch instruc-

tions; traps, breakpoints and

reasonable, but coverage of

subroutine calls, argument

transolssion and nesting is

shallow. The explanation of the

general use of JSR and RTS instructions and the over

academic treatment of recursion

tend more to cunfuse than to

logic of the assembler shares a

chapter with a description of linkage editing which is well

presented and more thorough

Advanced assembler techniques ore well coverad, eithough

The description of stacks is

priority interrupts.

lluminate.

than most.

that always work

tures. In general, the trentment

oultc clear.

to run simple programs

autoincrement in implementing absolute and immediate addres-

The whole book must be seen

as existing mainly as a vehicle

for the examples and exercises

which appear in each chapter:

Professor Katzan's book is essentially a precis of the Fortran 77 Standard which is much more readuble and manageable. Here, page presentation.
It will be useful to those who simply need

a readable reference on the contents of the Fortran 77 Standard, but that is the extent of its usefulness; unfortunately it contains few overall explanatory comments or examples.

Unfortunately, the supporting

text is very thin and shows many

signs of hasty composition and lack of editorial revision.

J. R. TRUELOVE

#### portable software Competible Fortres, by A. Colin Day. 107 pp. £5.95. Cembridge University Press (CW), 200 Euston Road.

MOST portable scientific programs are still being writtes is Fortres Although sawer lenguages offer substantial technical adventages Dr PETER WALLIS
Bath University
Bath University use is many programming projects as, for example, is many numerical

> This widespread use of Fortron is unlikely to be seriously chal-lasged in the near future; even Ads may take many years to become

ibiquitous. Secause of this continuing widespread use of Fortres for writing portable software, there is a desprete seed for a straightforward, no-nonsense presentation of the problems that can be ancountared in the writing of portable Fortres programs and this need Dr Day ably most in this book.

There is a large sumber of For-tres Standards, and the recent ad-vent of Fortres 77 adds yet se-

Dr Day's way of deeling with this situation is the "commos s set" epproach, which edvoca production of portable Fortras p grams written is a lenguege while common to all the dialects to

21

He accomplishes this with single provise that the restrictle imposed by the use of 9a standard Fortran are described in separate chepter.

The book is organised according to the different Fortran construction each the Competible Forti versios of the cosatruct is specif and datella of its use lucidfy

Further chapters discuss au matters se numerfo range a accuracy, charecter manipulate and made problems.

The clear, light style halps t book schieve its ends admirab and even those with no interest the use of Compatible Fortres could do wall to consult it as e model example of a useful text for precticisg progresimers.

> Dr PETER WALLIS Bath Usiversit



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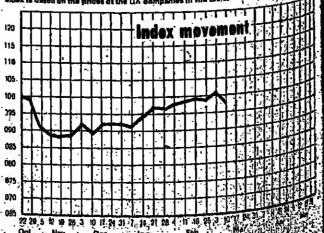
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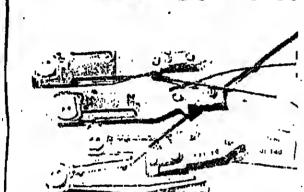
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#### **PRODUCT NEWS**

# Mains isolating unit for minicomputers

FROM Foster Cambridge comes a temperature aensitive, mains isoluting unit designed to protect small computers in the event of a significant rise in the ambient temperature caused by a failure to the air conditioning plant — and it is said to allow DP managers in sleep easier nt

it was designed following an air conditioning unit failure at Foster Combridge's own installation, which suggests that the Isolnting system could help to eliminate three-shift working nud reduce downtime.

The isolating system comprises two units - a 150 mm Clearway did indientar culibrated from 0 to 40°C and having a spiral temperature sensing element filled with mer-

The dial indicator is normally computer room where equilibrium exists between a heat source and the flow of cool uir, while the control unit is fitted close to the main three-phase solating switch

There are two set pointers on the dial indicator. One is set to the manufacturer's recommended maximum operating temperoture, about 30°C, while the other is set somewhat lower at, sav. 25°C.

Should the ambient temperature rise to the lower aetting, this would trigger a built-in audible slarm. During normal heard and allow corrective ac-

isolating control box.

eitber through it being an unattended period or through no action being taken, then a threephase isolator within the control unit trips out, shutting off the supply to the computer distribu-

Once awitched off, the mains then cannot be switched back on without human intervention in operating a key. This avoida the possibility of the whole cycle repeating itself as the environment cools and then heats again.

The unit is priced at £450. Foatar Cambridge Ltd (CW), Howard Road, Eaton Socon, St

The Continental

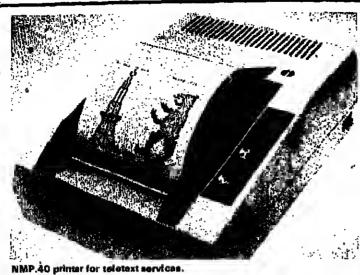
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#### Screen image printer for teletext systems

ANTICIPATING the future need either "ready to run" or OEM. for hard copy printouts from teletext services such as Prestel. Olympia haa designed a acreen image printer using its NMP.40 mechanism and Dataplus will be distributing them in the UK

As a universal data interface has yet to be completed, Olympia does not expect to provide full drive electronics for UK televiaion systema until later

The NMP.40 is amali and sald to be very quiet, and has a print station consisting of 240 discrete electrodes, equi-spaced across the 127 mm (five inch) wide paper, each being individually

consists of a rubber platen reversion to Arabic modes driven by a small DC motor. The opto pick-up gives line timing

Paper is loaded by illting the just-entered Latin text.r: platen assembly and dropping in vice-versa when changing a roll of metalised paper. In operation, a button is pressed to initiate printing and about three

Dataplus Ltd (CW), 39-48 in PROM. Roman Road, Cheltenham, Asthec GL51 8QQ. Tel: 0242 30030.

#### Digitus move

APPLE and Cromemco dealer Digitus has moved from London's Oxford Street to Covent Garden. The new address is 8 Macklin Street, London WC2,

# Bilingua video terminal

A BILINGUAL text processes video terminal capable of displaying mixed Arabic and Late scripta, is available from Den Data Systems.

The terminal employs the facilities of the 18-bit chip best Delta 7300 stand-alone text on cessing terminal and for Anhe scripts, the appropriate the racter generator has been alle with three control keys

They are designated "LATIN", "ARABIC" 221 "MIXED". In Latin mode, do racters are entered on to the screen successively from the right. In Arabic, character :: auccessively entered from it.

will enter Latin charactera spring loaded on to the paper.

The only moving part is the paper transport drive which character position to the characte re-position the screen cura: the next character positi: immediately to the left of the mixed mode to Latin mode.

The normal complement displayable characters a: seconds is quoted for the pro-duction of a full page.

Overall dimension of the cased version is 250 × 360 × 150

or alphanumeric Latin du racters and symbols plus 858.

65 Arabic alpha and numeric prises the standard 128 Asciv 65 Arabic alpha and numical characters, all of which are her

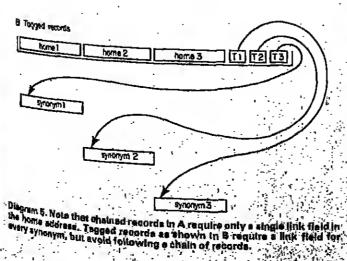
As the character matrix ont screen is fully programmit. played properly joined up. Other features of the termi-

Include multiple split sette. operation, text memory up 28,500 characters, multiple to racter founts and user propt

mable function keys.
Delta Data Systems Lid [Cal Swallowfields, Welwyn Gurbo City, AL7 1JD. Tel: Wels) Gnrden (96) 33633.

Diegram 4. Ten record buckets.

вуполут З



A new interession of Saste File Design, is now evellable and copies may be ordered from the General Sales Manager; IPC Electrical and Electronic Press Ltd, Dorset House, Stantiord Street, London SE1 SLU. Price £1,80 each including postage:

# Reducing the effect of synonyms in

Diagram 1. The affect of access fraquency loading (the E0-20 case).

files of 70% to 75% packing. The user will want to know how to get these results, when it is not going to be possible, and any drawbacks involved.

ADVANCED FILE DESIGN—Part 6

increases with Increasing

sizes of six or more, accesses to

synonyms are reduced to one

quarter of the figure recorded in

the random case. When 90% of

the accesses are to 10% of

records, buckets of size five or

more will show a reduction to

one ninth of random access fig-

These results are dramatic

and allow 90% to 95% packed

files to give as good a perfor-

direct files

synonyms are quickly retrieved.

It is often said that "90% of

accesses are to 10% of records".

or "80% of accesses are to 20% of

records" or some similar split.

When this applies, there is

dearly a benefit to be gained by

loading the most referenced

The size of this benefit in the

\$0:20 case can be judged from

olagram I, which appeared in

Basic File Dasign. An Interesting

Access fraquancy loading

that remains is to ensure that bucket size up to about six those remaining cause as little records per bucket. An analysis delay as possible. There are two

ways of doing this: 1. Loading pected in any given case is given the most-referenced records in 1, a City University Business

first; and 2. Ensuring that School working paper.
For the 60/20 case, and bucket

1. Information required. Data on the frequency of accesses to the file has to be obtained. When a file is first set up, a guessilmate is as much as can be expected, but data can be colstarting point, as they are a same location technique as for lected in one of two ways. family of curves that do not

if records are read and then written back, an additional single or double byte field can be added to the record, set up as binnry zeroes and incremented each time the record is updated. After sufficient time has elapsed to give a large count in the most referenced records, the file is surted into descending count field order and reloaded. The counts may be recorded and rezerned, or continue. Once it is clear that the access frequency pattern is reasonably stable, the count fields can be used for

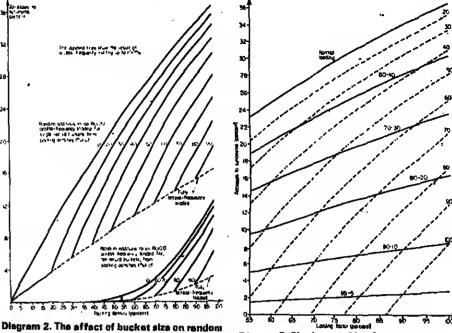
other purposes.
If the records are only referenced, this method involves an additional rotational delay just to update the count field. In this case it is better to use an ancillary file, consisting only of record keys and count fields, and probably organised in Indexed sequential form, to collect the data. Its small size ensures rapid access. Otherwise the process is Just as described above

2. Unsultable files, if a file is very variable in necess pattern data is not obtainable. The designer will have to secept that he normal conditions of random accesa will opply.
3. File degradation. Additions

to nn access frequency loaded file will generally be active, as they are new customers, products and so on. They will cer-tainly be a random mix, and will include a proportion of very active records. This leads to rapid degradation of the file, the extent of which is shown in Diagram 2. The file will-still synonyms than a conventionally loaded file, but the advantage grows less as more random ad ditions are made.

Diagrams 3 and 4 show the accesses to synonyms aa a result of normal loading, and 60/40, 70/30,60/20,90/10 and 90/5 case acceas frequency loaded files for single and 10 racord buckets in the range 55%-100% packing. Theae are tha unbroken lines. Random ndditions are shown as dashed lines, with the figures on tha right anowing the packing density from which random ad-

#### BASIC FILE DESIGN



without additions or deletions.

in uddition, If a home record

Synonym retriaval

ditions were made to the 90/10 first synonym to the second and clearly shown here; all the tags case. One of these dashed lines, so on. Many writers recommend take up space in the home or lines similar to them, will be a separate overflow nres for followed as a result of random chained records, but it is better additions regardless of the to store the records using the

viding link fields, This method puts a premium Summing up, additions to and deletions from a direct file do not on algorithms that avoid large numbers of synonyms for any one address. There is some indialter the performance of conventionally loaded files, but will cation that true randomisation degrade an access frequency performs better than division in loaded file. The ideal file for this purpose has a static record sel this respect.

Johnson? showed that ensuring the minimum length of chains by moving up synonyms into the home bucket markedly The other area that can improved performance. Howimprove performance of direct ever, so long as link fields are files in that of synonym storage. protected, adultions and dele-Three methods of handling synonyms ure widely used; these tions do not present any particular difficulty.

progressive overflow, but pro-

are progressive overflow, chaining and tagging. The last two are shown in Diagram 5. Most reported work has been carried out us a comparison of chained overflow and progress-I. Progressive overflow.

Records can be stored in the ive overflow Diagram li shows the results next available position following achieved by Lum, Yuen and their home bucket. This has the advuntage that no complex links Dodd (see Part 5) for various are required, but means that bucket sizes and packing densthere is no indication that a lties. As bucket sizes increase, synonym exists. A reference to a progressive overflow becomes record that is not in the file more effective than chained would not be detected as an er- nvcrflow in a separate area (they ror until the whole file hod been did not use the prime data area for chained overflow).

The drawbacks of the other in an address with synonyms is two methods have led to the deleted a synonym has to be development of

located and put into the home 3. Tagged records. In this case position, otherwise it will appear reference to synonyms is very that the address is free, und no impld, as each overflow record is pulnted to directly from the 2. Chnined records. In this hame bucket. The importance of casa the last home record is avoiding large numbers of linked to the first synonym, tha synonyms for a single address is

record, so their number should be kept to a minimum.

> Little work has been done on tagging, but the method always outperforms the other two. It is also more robust and quicker to amend than chaining, when a record has been added or de

In the last three parts we have looked at direct files in detail. For rugury systems these liles will always provide more rapid access than any other. However, they do not provide rapid sequential access, and allowing for adequate security can be a problem In Part 7 we shall examine indexeit sequential liles, which give an effective compromise when mixed sequential and direct reference is

improving the Efficiency of Ran-domly Organisco Files by Loading in Access Frequency Order, O. J. Hanson, City University Business School working paper, obtainable from the Librarian, at the school An Indirect Chaining Method for Addressing on Secondary Keys, L. R. Johnson, CACM, Vol. 14, No.

#### CONFERENCES

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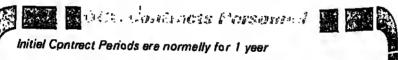
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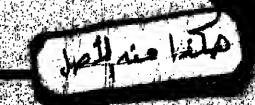
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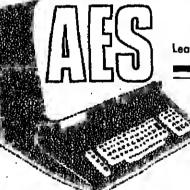
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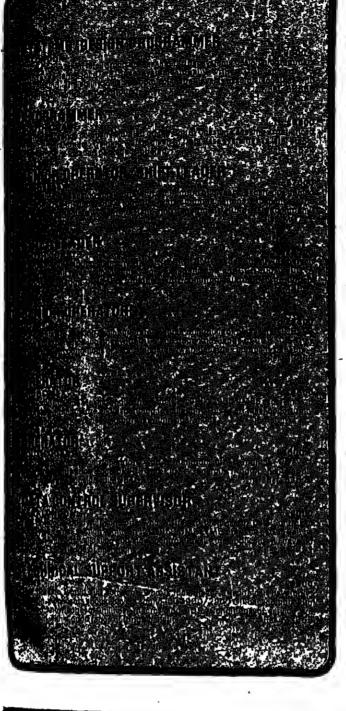
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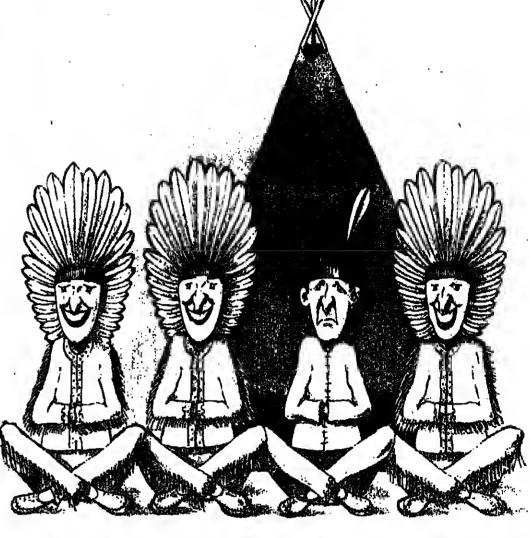
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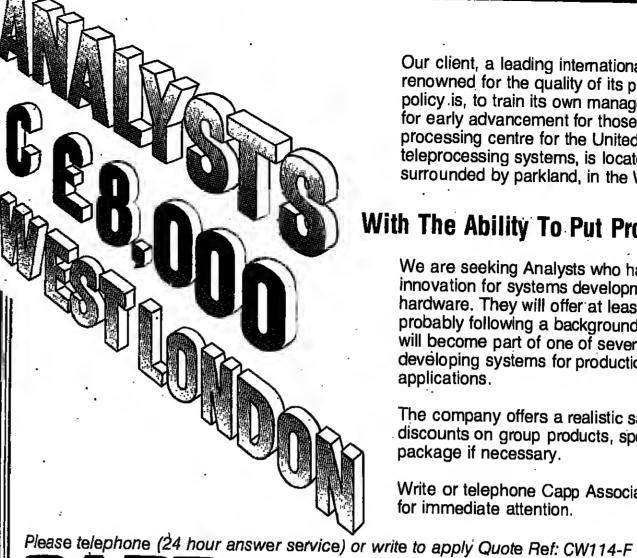
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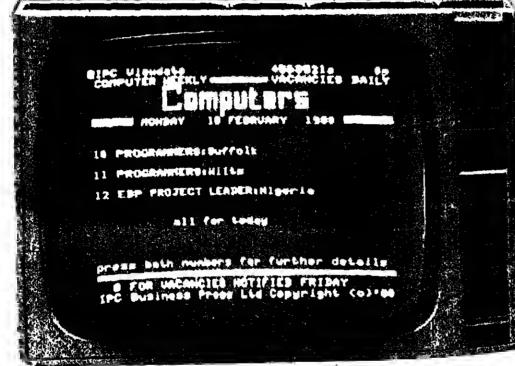
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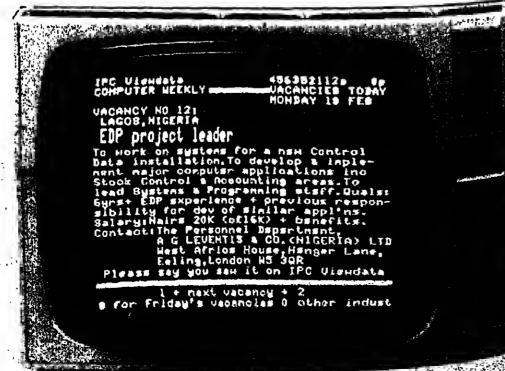
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benefit la a direct or indirect modif element of a product, or the of the potential buyer a molications of outcome of the possible realisation its use, which provides the the part of the client that I user or buyer with a desir- can live without a lot of ti able feature or facility at a special features that have price he is prepared to pay. been proposed and say This might be better de-

A sales advantage is a

sales benefit that is unique do in such circumstance service and therefore of comes in with a new mode more value to him than a or a "lean and mean" profeature which can be canfeature which can be can-celled out by "me tool" bandling today's realities seven days a week, but will also demand immediate en- crease in the size of the lob gineering support in case of How does the salesman sny equipment fallure at, react to the fact that his any time. We are the only competitors have concompany providing round- vinced the client that a parthe-clock, on-call en-- ticular-feature is essential tr gincering maintenance that his needs when the sales-

Which means that a sales wast - and stated it was advantage is worth any unnecessary or unavail number of sules hencilt so long as the buyers' needs are fulfilled. Conversely, a sales benefit does not exist

ing situation in which the drive oneself into a alesman, by way of building his sales argument on special and unique pro-duct features, can get him-the salesman into un unreself into an unrecoverable coverable situation without situation where the very him inflicting it on himself. benefits he has emphasised . Be flexible that's the only are the ones which prevent way to survive in selling! in from winning the order.

but you could describe it as selling without flexibility.

Some salesmen, typically those in the process of hawking a solution which is looking for a problem, jus-life the product they are Rapid Recall. A full breakilow tify the product they are of CPU types is presented in proposing by atating that he configuration involved is sither essential to the client's needs or the only model that is valid availabls. This is typified by the "overkill" proposal, prompted by anything from Wooburn Industrial Park ack of imagination on the part of the saleaman, to'a apecial, bonus supported campaign to promote the

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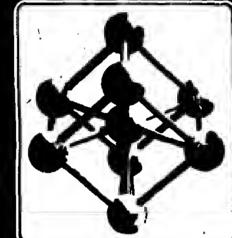
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